Course Description: ENGL 495 "Independent Study" (3 credits) allows students to construct unique plans of study in situations where no appropriate course is currently offered, in cases where other constraints would prevent a student from graduating on schedule. Students work independently, according to the plan of the approved study proposal, under the direction of an instructor with expertise in that area. The student will meet regularly with the instructor throughout the semester, completing agreed-upon work to satisfy the course needs. Students are expected to produce 20-30 pages of formal writing. May be repeated up to three hours.

For this specific section, as the course is variable in hours, the student will register for a One Hour independent study.

Our specific learning outcomes will be:
1) A developed study plan for the study, taking and passing of the content exam for the field of English.
2) The taking and passing of the content pre-test with a 75% or higher grade.
3) The taking and passing of the state content exam

Required Texts: We will work with the study guides provided on reserve at the Steen Library and available Pearson texts.

Course Requirements:

Writing:
The student will write three separate practice essays that will prepare her for the written portion of the content exam. We will study the structure of possible questions and suggestions for writing strategies. After this, the student will complete three separate practice essays. We will meet to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each practice essay.
**Exams:**
The student will take the pre-exam. Upon completion of the pre-exam, the student and I will study those questions that she got wrong in order to improve her abilities and understanding of weaker competency areas.

**State Exam:**
Finally, at the end of the semester, the student will take and pass the state content exam.

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance:** As this is an independent study course, there will be no excused absences. Any cancelled meeting will be made up at a later time.

**Academic Honesty:**

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. ([http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp))

**Free Speech and Class Conduct:** As noted already, it is my goal that a great deal of the class will center on some form of discussion. While at times this will focus on more of a Socratic method (specific question and answer), there will be more times when the conversation is to be open and exploratory. I do encourage students to pursue ideas and readings of texts, but it is important that we all recognize that not every reading can be considered a possible reading. In other words, our readings and responses should be informed and/or supported by the primary and secondary texts that are under consideration at that moment, or by the overall spectrum of the texts that we have read. Furthermore, it is my responsibility as an educator to problematize and question your readings as well as recognize the merit of your argument.

**Withheld Grades:**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in
future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.”
For the complete policy, http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-6.1.pdf.