**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

**Course Review Form**

**DATE:** 09/13/2016

**REVIEWER:** S. MacDonald

**COURSE TITLE & NUMBER:** IS-901 (Independent Study)

**PROPOSED BY:** A. Almond and C. Mennella

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:** PSY1101 and LAW1201

**COURSE IS:** ✓ Existing New In development

**PROPOSED COURSE DESIGNATION**: College Option ✓ elective Capstone other:

**DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN:** Social Science

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE (e.g., co-taught, guest lecture, LC, other):**  co-taught

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION** (if co-taught): 1.5 and 1.5

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**  Independent study is a learning experience that allows for self-directed study relating to an area of academic or professional experience. Key elements of the course include critical

analysis, application or development of ideas and concepts related to the area of inquiry and guidance by a faculty mentor.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE HOW COURSE MEETS INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITERIA?**

**<Consider:** Our interdisciplinary definition: focuses on questions, problems, and topics too complex or too broad for a single discipline or field to encompass adequately; such studies thrive on drawing connections between seemingly exclusive domains. Also, evaluate Learning Outcomes: Purposefully connect and integrate across discipline knowledge and skills to solve problems; Synthesize and transfer knowledge across disciplinary boundaries; Comprehend factors inherent in complex problems; Apply integrative thinking to problem-solving in ethically and socially responsible ways; Recognize varied perspectives; Gain comfort with complexity and uncertainty; Think critically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively; become flexible thinkers. Lastly, How is this Section/Learning Community/Other different from other sections/Learning Communities/Other?>

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?**

<**Consider:** an interdisciplinary course at City Tech the course must be team taught by more than one faculty member from two or more departments in the College. An interdisciplinary course, by definition, has an interdisciplinary theme as its nucleus. Lastly, is the proposer’s rational for chosen structure (e.g., guest lecture, co-taught, etc.) in the spirit of interdisciplinarity?>

**DOES COURSE MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION?** < see links for criteria CityTech: <http://www.300jaystreet.com/college-council/curriculum_proposals/past_proposals> NYS: <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/lrp/liberalarts.htm> >

**STRENGTHS:** This was an interdisciplinary independent study especially designed for a graduating student, who completed the independent study during summer 2016. The title of student’s project for this independent study was “The Legal and Psychological Conflicts between Dogs as Both Property and Privileged Members of Society.” The project involved the students’ examination of the ways in which the U.S. legal system has inconsistently ruled on cases in which a dog was to be killed, and how the legal system views pets as property. The unreliability of several such rulings was thoroughly investigated. At the same time, the psychological perspective, in which human attachment to dogs as pets may be viewed quite differently and may often conflict with legal views. The inconsistencies were investigated and through the lens of those in the psychological sciences, the legal system, as well as those who manage pet adoption centers and pet owners themselves.

The project effectively integrated both the legal and psychological perspectives.

**WEAKNESSES:** The IS 904 independent study itself is not an interdisciplinary course. An interdisciplinary independent study must be tied to an existing course or courses. The student received ID credit (3 credits) for a new "course" that was not recommended by the ID committee. Finally, **any ID independent study course should meet the requirements of both an independent study** (see <http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/catalog/docs/catalog.pdf#37>) ***and* an ID course**.