



## PS 470 INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM CRITERIA

The purpose of an individual problem is to give students research experience. This includes defining a problem, developing and performing the appropriate problem-solving procedure, analyzing the experiment to arrive at a justifiable conclusion, and presenting the project in a scientifically correct written report. This also provides an opportunity to summarize one's college education to a date. Students will incorporate experience from course, and field and laboratory work with knowledge from appropriate literature and collaboration with other workers in their area. The individual problem is also an opportunity to work closely with a faculty researcher. Students are encouraged to seek out faculty members other than their own advisor.

### General Guidelines

1. 1 to 3 credits per semester (no more than six credits can be counted toward graduation).
2. The PS 470 advisor can be any member of the PS Department faculty, not necessarily one's advisor.
3. Should involve research; can generate new data or consider refinement and analysis of data gathered by others.
4. Should be definable, simple and solvable; students usually attempt too much of a project. A thorough literature review should be included.
5. Should generate useful information. It should be summarized in a written report which will be filed in the Departmental Library. This report should go through several drafts which are constructively criticized by one's PS 470 advisor. It should follow the traditional format of a scientific paper or acceptable popular journal (see "Guide for Preparation of Theses and Professional Papers," College of Graduate Students, Montana State University). Publication of the project is encouraged.
6. Students with field projects may need to get started the summer before their senior year.
7. Prior to registration for PS 470, the student should consult with one's potential PS 470 advisor. The student should make a general topic selection and submit a written study proposal which must be approved by the advisor. A Restricted Entry form is required to register for a PS 470 course. Therefore, students cannot register for PS 470 until they have secured the approval of their PS 470 advisor. Due dates should be agreed upon. Ample time should be left for unexpected difficulties and redrafting of written material.

### Grading Criteria

- 10% - Written project proposal
- 10% - Promptness
- 20% - Independent thought and creative activity
- 60% - Final Product
  - 20% - General worthiness
  - 20% - Literature review, site investigation and/or research procedures
  - 20% - Written and/or graphic presentation quality and correctness

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Proposal for 470's - 570's

STUDENT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Semester \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE OR PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:

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DESIRED RESULTS: WHAT DOES THE STUDENT HOPE TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED:

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NAME OF INSTRUCTOR \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL \_\_\_\_\_

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