

## SAMPLE INDEPENDENT STUDY/ SELECTED TOPICS PROPOSAL

### • STUDENT NAME

#### Independent Study ART 5399 (Graduate Independent Study)

#### Rationale and Plan of Study

##### **Rationale for conducting an independent study: selected topics course**

**(suggestions):** This independent study is intended to provide the student with an opportunity to conduct research while enrolled as a graduate student. After gathering a variety of source material, including some primary, I will exercise my analytic/ interpretive skills to produce a presentation and paper in the subject of ..... Practice in research methods, analysis and interpretation will be of great benefit and relevance to my future work. A scholarship from the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas at Tyler has been awarded to assist in the financing of my research and coursework. The independent study: special topics will allow me to explore my interest in the areas of ..... not covered in existing courses. (OR AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL FOR A CLASS ALREADY TAKEN AS AN UNDERGRADUATE)

**Purpose of the study:** The study is focused on ..... (put in a paragraph about what you are proposing to study) Here is an example: The study is focused on exploring artworks produced during the ..... Period or by the artist....., which focused on the subject of ..... I am interested in learning about..... . Some of the questions I plan to explore are ..... . (Graduate students should also explain the methodologies by which they will analysis their research materials: i.e. feminism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, post-colonial, biographical, iconographic interpretations using social/ religious / cultural / political context..... etc.)

#### 3. **Objectives:** Upon completion of the independent study/ selected topics, I will have:

- Acquired knowledge of .....
- Gained confidence in methods of research
- Gathered and analyzed personally collected research materials
- Mastered interpretative methodologies for analyzing my chosen artwork(s)
- Given a presentation to my professor and peers on my research topic.
- Produced a professional paper in the field of .....
- Become more professional in work and research habits

#### 4. **Activities to accomplish objectives:** To accomplish the above named objectives, I shall conduct research by reading at least eight different texts and/or journal articles. With the help of Dr. Lisot, I will utilize the information I gather to give a presentation and write a paper centered on ..... using background information gathered from outside reading completed throughout the first half of the semester. Weekly meetings or emails with Dr. Lisot will help to build a sense of professionalism in work ethic.

**5. Required reading/ Bibliography (at least 8 texts/articles). Student is required to supply faculty supervisor copies of all reading material. EXAMPLE:**

- Cleveland, L.E., et al. "Method for Assessing Food Intakes in Terms of Servings Based on Food Guidance." *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 65 (1997): 1254-1263.
- Counihan, Carole M. "Food Rules in the United States: Individualism, Control, and Hierarchy." *Anthropological Quarterly*. 65.2 (1992): 55-66.
- Hertzler, Ann A. and Robert B. Frary. "College Students' Nutrition Information Networks." *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal*. 24 (1995): 191-202
- Rathje, William, and Cullen Murphy. *Rubbish!: The Archaeology of Garbage*. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.
- Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.
- Tavelii, Suzanne. and Kathy Beerman. "Source of Error and the Nutritional Adequacy of the Food Guide Pyramid." *Journal of American College Health*. 47.2 (1998): 77-82.
- Etc.

**6. Evaluation process:** Methods of evaluation for the independent study will revolve around completion of research, reading of background material, weekly contact (in person or via email) with my advisor, Dr. Lisot, and completion of a paper as the final product. All requirements must be met to pass the course. Student can adjust assignments with more and shorter papers and less credit per paper if needed. \*

**BE SURE TO PUT DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT & list name of text or article being read for paper.**

- 15% Critical Analysis of one text/journal article (2-3 pages) GIVE DATE DUE
- 15% Critical Analysis of second text/journal article (2-3 pages) DUE DATE
- 15% Critical Analysis of third text/journal article (2-3 pages) DUE DATE
- 15% Critical Analysis of third text/journal article (2-3 pages) DUE DATE
- 40% Final Paper (10-12 pages graduate) DUE DATE

\*You don't need to set it up as above, if you don't want to do a presentation, but want to do more short papers, you can do that, or suggest other ways for the evaluation process.

**Use for special purpose:** Graduate Level Art History Credit is being sought for this independent study.

**8. Number of credits:** This independent study will be a three credit course.