

## **IDSVA SYLLABUS**

### **Independent Study I**

<b>Course Number:</b>	704
<b>Course Name:</b>	Independent Study I
<b>Dates:</b>	January 17 – April 30, 2011 (Spring Break March 7 – 11)
<b>Format:</b>	Online & Telephone
<b>Instructor:</b>	IDSVA Faculty
<b>Credits:</b>	5

### **Course Description:**

Independent Study I begins with the New York Residency. Possible topics are explored within the context of seminar readings and in light of the Symposium, museum visits, and residency seminar discussions. Students then discuss independent study topics with their advisors, and from those discussions they formulate a topic and thesis for proposal. Proposals are finalized by the Independent Study Director, who is assigned prior to January 17.

The student and Independent Study Director work together toward the production of a twenty-page research paper intended to hone the student's critical thinking and writing skills, while broadening the student's engagement with ideas and artworks.

### **Learning Objectives:**

The IDSVA Independent Study program is designed to help the student develop particular scholarly interests and to integrate those interests within the IDSVA curriculum. It is also meant to encourage exploration and extended research toward a dissertation topic, keeping in mind that eliminating unsuitable topics can be just as beneficial as identifying suitable ones. Finally, the Independent Study is meant to foster the skills and attitude necessary for successful scholarship. These include "hard" skills, such as creating an outline, footnotes, and a bibliography, but also "soft" skills, such as the wherewithal to pursue research independently while also seeking advice and counsel from colleagues in the field.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Independent Study I results in a twenty-page paper on a topic of the student's choice.
2. Papers should include a minimum of six bibliographic entries. However, Independent Study Directors should use their discretion regarding the appropriate quantity of additional reading. If questions arise, the student and/or the IS Director should contact the Chair of Independent Studies for guidance.

3. Students are encouraged to include texts from the seminar courses in their bibliographies.
4. The Chicago Manual of Style's Humanities Style, should be used. The Chicago Manual of Style is available online and through the IDSVL Library.

### **Assessment:**

Final grades are calculated on the basis of final paper (85%) and process (15%). Process includes quality of student communications, scholarly independence, and his/her ability to respond to suggestions and criticism.

### **Schedule:**

*(This schedule is provided as a guideline for students and Independent Study Directors. This schedule may be modified on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the Independent Study Director and in consultation with the Chair of Independent Studies.)*

1. A thesis statement and working bibliography should be submitted to the Independent Study Director by the end of **week one (1/23/11)** of the Independent Study.
2. A working outline and bibliography should be submitted to the Independent Study Director and to IDSVL librarian Laura Graveline by the end of **week two (1/30/11)**.
3. A rough draft of the first half should be submitted to the Independent Study Director by the end of **week six (2/27/11)**.
4. A rough draft of the entire paper should be submitted to the Independent Study Director by the end of **week ten (4/3/11)**.
5. The final draft should be submitted to the Independent Study Director no later than **week twelve (4/17/11)**.
6. Final paper with Director's written comments on the process and the paper should be returned to the student the end of **week fourteen (4/30/11)**.
7. The Independent Study Director should submit grades and a copy of the paper with the Director's written comments on the process and the paper directly to the Chair of Independent Studies no later than **week fourteen (4/30/11)**.
8. Directors should submit copies of phone logs and email records to the Chair no later than the end of **week fifteen (5/7/11)**.
9. Final evaluation of the process and paper should be discussed between Director and student by phone no later than the end of **week twelve (4/17/11)**.
10. The final draft should be delivered to the IS Director and to IDSVL Submission Storage. Submitted documents must be titled with both the document name and email subject line according to the following format:

**familyname, givenname\_704\_assignmentname\_yymmdd**

(e.g., "Jones, Sally\_704\_final draft\_110223").

**Communication:**

1. Faculty/student should communicate by phone at least every other week. Some email communication is expected every week, even if this is simply a check-in to insure work is progressing. Phone communications should be calendar scheduled as well as spontaneous as necessary.
2. While student/faculty telephone conferences and emails are confidential, for academic credit purposes Directors should keep logs of the durations of weekly phone discussions and keep email records.
3. The Chair of Independent Studies will be checking in with each Director and student on a scheduled basis. When questions or difficulties arise, Director and/or student should contact the Chair immediately. This is especially the case if a student shows signs of falling behind schedule or losing focus.
4. Three-way conference calls between Director, Chair, and Student are available on an as-needed basis.

Note: The Independent Study proposal submitted at the outset is meant to help guide the process, not to be set in stone. Students are asked to apprise Independent Study Directors of changes in their argument.