

## SMU DOCTOR OF LIBERAL STUDIES

### INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACT/PROPOSAL

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DLS students may earn up to 9 credit hours through Independent Study in a subject area directly related to their area of focus in the DLS program. Students must first complete the six required courses, be in good academic standing, and receive the approval of their academic advisor/Program Director/Faculty Chair to be eligible to undertake an independent study. To enroll in an Independent Study, students must work with a DLS faculty member to define specific course requirements and complete an Independent Study Contract subject to the approval of the Director and/or Faculty Chair/Dean. Independent Study courses may be taken for three credit hours at a time. The deadline to submit proposals to the DLS office is at least four weeks before the beginning of the term for which the study is requested.

**NOTE:** Independent Studies are not required to complete the SMU Doctor of Liberal Studies degree, but may be useful to explore topics not addressed in the formal coursework offered by the university from semester to semester.

**NOTE 2:** The expectations to enroll in an independent study through the Doctor of Liberal Studies program are significant. For each credit hour earned, a student is expected to contribute 15 pages of writing. For a typical 3 credit independent study, a student is expected to contribute 45 pages of writing. **Make sure that the page length of your writing contribution is clearly indicated below along with the content of the paper.**

**NOTE 3:** In order for the expectations and evaluation methods to be clear to the student, **the directing faculty member should provide a clear grading rubric and written assignment guidelines.** Samples are available in the GLS office for review upon request.

*Please complete the following form, secure the appropriate signatures and return to the DLS office for review.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Proposal Submission: \_\_\_\_\_

SMU Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Directing Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Credit Hours Expected: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Date to be Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic or Title of Independent Study: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description: (Please describe the nature of the project and topics covered in detail as well as the page length and content of the writing contribution expected – for each credit hour earned, 15 pages of writing is expected)**

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**Describe how this project/independent study directly enhances/advances the study of the student's focal area of study:**

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**Describe how this study will involve the interpretation the human condition from an interdisciplinary, liberal arts perspective:**

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**Describe which interdisciplinary approaches will be introduced, and/or practiced in this study:**

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**TOTAL # OF WRITTEN PAGES EXPECTED (REQUIRED):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading List (REQUIRED):**

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**Evaluation Methods: (Sample guides and rubrics are available from the DLS Director)  
(REQUIRED)**

**Meeting Schedule:** (Instructors and Students should plan to meet on a regular basis. Please describe the meeting structure below for the entire length of the term)

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**Grading Rubric:** (Please describe in detail the grading rubric to be used to evaluate the project and student achievement, i.e. what level of work constitutes a grade of “A”, “B”, etc.)

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**Written Assignment Guidelines:** (Please describe in detail the guidelines that will be used to assess the student's doctoral level research and writing skills, for example: depth of thought and analysis, synthesis and congruency, thoroughness, depth of research, personalization and clarity of writing and mechanics)

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Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directing Professor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Department Approvals:

Approved       Not Approved

DLS Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved       Not Approved

Simmons Dean/Faculty Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revisions Required: