

## Independent Reading/Research (COMM 441/442)

### What is independent study in Communication and Media?

Independent Study is a course of study designed by a student and a sponsoring faculty member. Independent Reading (COMM 441) is intended for individualized instruction in subject areas **not covered by scheduled courses**. Independent Research (COMM 442) is intended for original, individualized student research under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Independent Research may not be used to provide research support to a faculty member.

### How do you apply and register for independent study?

1. Identify a mass media or emerging media topic of interest not currently covered by existing courses in the curriculum.
2. Find a faculty member who agrees to supervise your independent study and whose area of interest relates to your topic (students may view faculty research areas on the Communication and Media website at: [www.lsa.umich.edu/comm/faculty/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/comm/faculty/)). The responsibility for finding a faculty sponsor belongs to the student. **(Note: The Department or Undergraduate Program Coordinator cannot assist students to find a faculty sponsor for independent study.)**
3. Complete the *Application for Independent Reading or Independent Research* available in the department or on the undergraduate C-Tools site located under Resources\Independent Study.
4. Make an appointment with your selected faculty supervisor to discuss all areas of the independent study; complete the application form, and have it signed by the faculty supervisor.
5. Return the signed application form and requested attachments to the department's Undergraduate Program Coordinator for approval by the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Education.
6. Approved applicants will be notified and issued permission to register for the course by the Undergraduate Program Coordinator.

#### Important Policies:

- COMM 441 and 442 courses are graded credit/no credit.
- Independent Reading and Research courses are only for **declared Communication and Media juniors or seniors**.
- A maximum of three (3) credits from COMM 322, 441 or 442 (Independent Study) may apply to the major requirements (additional credit may be applied to the general bachelor's degree requirements).
- Comm 441 and 442 may NOT be used for internship credit.

### Independent Reading (COMM 441) Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UMID #: \_\_\_\_\_

UM Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed # Credits: \_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_ 4

*Note: Only 3 credits may be used to satisfy concentration requirements. Remaining credits may be used toward general bachelor's degree requirements*

Academic Level: \_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_ Junior Term/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Faculty Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty INDI # (Completed by the Department): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Proposed Reading Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Objective of the Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Courses Relevant to the Project (in any department): \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Proposed Readings and Assignments: **Attach a preliminary reading list.**

Assignments may include research papers and/or examinations. The length and quality of the product should be equivalent to the work expected for a regular 400-level course carrying equal credit, i.e. a final paper equivalent to 5-10 pages of writing per credit hour.

Proposed Meeting Schedule: \_\_\_\_\_

### Agreement to Initiate Independent Reading Course

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Office Use Only:</b></p> <p>Receive Date: _____</p> <p>ACUS Approve Date: _____</p>
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## Independent Research (COMM 442) Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UMID #: \_\_\_\_\_

UM Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed # Credits (1-3 cr/ncr): \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Level: \_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Term/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Faculty Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Objective of the Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Courses Relevant to the Project (in any department): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Description of Proposed Workload and Assignments: **Attach a written project proposal.**

This must be negotiated with your faculty supervisor and may include research papers and/or examinations.

The length and quality of the product should be equivalent to the work expected for a regular 400 level course carrying equal credit, i.e. a final paper equivalent to 5-10 pages of writing per credit hour.

Potential Scholarly Products: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Materials are Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Level of Student Effort per Week: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Meeting Schedule: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Agreement to Initiate Independent Research Course

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only:**

Receive Date \_\_\_\_\_

ACUS Approve Date \_\_\_\_\_