SMU MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES

INDEPENDENT STUDY CONTRACT

MLS students may earn up to 6 credit hours through Independent Study in a subject area relevant to the MLS Curriculum. Students must first complete the two required courses and be in good academic standing to be eligible to undertake an independent study. To enroll in an Independent Study, students must work with an MLS faculty member to define specific course requirements and complete an Independent Study Contract subject to the approval of the Director and/or Dean. Independent Study courses may be taken for one, two or three credit hours. The deadline to submit proposals to the MLS office is at least two weeks before the beginning of the term for which the study is requested.

NOTE: The expectations to enroll in an independent study through the Master of Liberal Studies program are significant. For each credit hour earned, a student is expected to contribute 8-10 pages of writing. So, for a typical 3 credit independent study, a student is expected to contribute 24 – 30 pages worth of writing. Make sure that the page length of your writing contribution is clearly indicated below along with the content of the paper.

NOTE 2: 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 MLS office for review upon request.

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

Student Name:_____

SMU Student ID Number:_____

Email address:_____

Directing Professor:_____

Number of Credit Hours Expected:_____

Semester of Study:_____

Date to be Completed:_____

Topic or Title of Course:_____

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, 8-10 pages of writing is expected)

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Reading List:

_____
_____
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Evaluation Methods: (Sample guides and rubrics are available from the MLS Director)

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 written work, for example: depth of thought and analysis, synthesis and congruency, thoroughness, 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**

MLS Director:_____**Date**_____

☐ **Approved** ☐ **Not Approved**

Simmons Dean:_____**Date**_____

Revisions Required: