

SAMPLE #1

Honors Option Contract Approval Plan of Study

The student will research topics related to gender, the status of women, and feminist politics in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia. Pussy Riot, the recent homosexual propaganda ban, and general cultural attitudes in the post-Soviet period will be of particular interest. Combining study of scholarly sources available at the University of Maryland, original research in Russia accomplished during summer 2013, and development of new course on gender relations and politics in Soviet and post-Soviet, this independent study will enable the independent study student to better understand both historical and current experiences of the LGBTQ community in Russia.

During the semester, the student will continue to discover and read books and articles by scholars of Russian society and culture. The student plans on applying to the Honors Program of the Women's Studies Department, and hopes to be able to use the materials from this independent study towards his application, and, if accepted, as the foundation for his thesis.

The student will also examine, analyze, and attempt to draw conclusions from the original research he conducted in St. Petersburg and Moscow during his study abroad. This research consists of one-on-one interviews conducted by the independent study student with Russian university students and professors. The final product is a research paper that brings together the student's interviews, experiences in Russia, and the scholarly books and articles he will read during the fall semester. Finally, the independent study student will assist Dr. Catherine Schuler in the making of a new Honors seminar, "From Lenin to Pussy Riot: Gendering Post-Soviet Russia," to be offered by the University of Maryland Honors College Spring of 2014. Developing this course with the advising professor will prepare the student for his undergraduate TAship (with Dr. Schuler) in Spring 2014. As a future TA, the independent study student will help to create the course (both content and form). The advising professor and the student will do the course planning as part of independent study described (and requested) in this proposal.

Although the advising professor and the independent study student will meet regularly during the Fall semester, the student's work will be largely self-directed. The advising professor's role is to encourage thoughtful analysis of the readings and guide the process of course construction. The student and the advising professor will meet weekly to discuss the student's self-directed reading, as well as to construct their coming Honors seminar. The independent study student's analysis of independent, self-conducted research is in itself a laudable academic pursuit – using his newfound knowledge to help build a course to teach other students is truly above and beyond the scope of a typical independent study program, and is thus deserving of an Honors notation. We hope that the student's initiative and desire to undertake such a rigorous and novel course of study will be rewarded with an Honors designation.

SAMPLE #2

Plan of Study for Honors-Option ARTH345

Dr. Hargrove's "Arth345: Nineteenth-Century European Art to 1850" course focuses on the major artistic trends in the early half of the 19th century with emphasis on the historical context. The Industrial Revolution had an effect on artists' materials and subject matter. Through additional work in the course, I would be focusing on learning more about these changes, including a case study of J.M.W. Turner.

The course load for the normal Arth345 consists of one quiz, one mid-term examination, one 5 page research paper, a final examination, and class participation. To expand on this course work to benefit the Honors-Optioned level, my research paper would be longer (10 pages instead of 5) on Turner's subject matter and how it relates to the Industrial Revolution. Additionally, I will be giving a 20 minute presentation on Turner's use of materials and color theory, and how these elements changed during the time period. This will be accompanied by a short written reflection on the material covered and what I have learned through my presentation.

In addition to this course load, I will be assigned four additional readings over the semester and write critical responses on them. These responses will outline the material, summarize the overarching themes and points, and comment on the usefulness and clarity for the course. The class readings are predominantly from the textbook, *Nineteenth-Century European Art* by Petra ten-Doesschate Chu, but also consist of supplementary articles. Based on my additional readings, I would assist in leading class discussions.

As a result of this additional course work, I will be able to gain more insight into the topic of European Art in the early 19th century. As this time was a turning point for many artists, it will be interesting to focus on one artist to see the historical context directly affect him. If all these additional responsibilities can be met in an engaging intellectual manner, the course can be regarded as meeting Honors-Option requirements that challenge me and provide me with more knowledge on the subject matter than the normal class.