GUIDELINES FOR ARRANGING TO COMPLETE AN INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE
WITH PROFESSOR STEPHANIE L. TAYLOR, Ph.D

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I would be happy to consider a reasonable proposal for independent study as long as you fit the following criteria:

• You MUST have had at least two (2) courses with me within the last five (5) years; at least one of them must be 300-level or above.
• You MUST have received a grade of “A” in each course.
• You MUST have exhibited strong writing skills in each course.
• You MUST have had excellent attendance in each course.
• You MUST have participated in each course.
• The project you propose MUST NOT be a part of my regular course curriculum. If it is, I prefer that you pursue your research in the context of that regular course rather than independently.

If you meet ALL of these criteria, I would be happy to consider your project. Please follow these rules:

• DO submit your research proposal the semester before your wish to begin your independent study.
• DO give me plenty of time to consider your proposal.
• DO make an appointment to meet with me to discuss your application when you submit it.
• DO ask me to guide you as you write your proposal.
• DO NOT expect me to agree to an independent study on a tight deadline.
• DO NOT expect me to agree to a poorly-designed or ill-conceived project.

YOUR TYPED RESEARCH PROPOSAL MUST INCLUDE:

• a title
• the # of credits you expect to receive
• the semester and year you wish to complete the independent study
• a 1-3 paragraph (single-spaced) description that clearly defines your topic, including the reason why you are interested in it, the main questions you are seeking to answer with your research, and the methodology you propose to use to answer your questions
• a bibliography listing at least 8-10 books and 3-6 articles related to your project
• A detailed timeline, with specifics about the amount of work you will accomplish in a course, how the work will be accomplished, and exactly when each stage of your work will be submitted.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND that a standard, 3-credit independent course in Art History would require you to write a 12-15 page research paper with illustrations, bibliography and citations. It would be due
on the last day of the semester. You should schedule book synopses, preliminary drafts, and any other work regularly throughout the semester. You should also schedule at least two (2) meetings with me during the course of your independent study.