

# 594 Creating an Independent Study

Humanities Master of Arts  
California State University, Dominguez Hills



## Introduction to HUX 594: Independent Study Course

Each Independent Study is a self-designed course of study worth 3 units. It is available in any of the five disciplines, as well as in the interdisciplinary format. All students in the HUX program, whether following Curriculum A or B, have the opportunity to create a course specific to their interests that is unlike any course in the HUX curriculum. Students in either the Art or Music concentration (i.e., in Curriculum B) *must* create independent study courses in order to complete their Phase II requirements unless substitute or transfer units are accepted to complete Phase II requirements.

Students not the Creative Track option are normally limited to two Independent Studies. HUX students may not take an Independent Study during their first trimester. Students who sign up for the HUX 594 and do not file a contract or do not have any contact with the Humanities External Degree office or faculty during the term will receive a “U” (Unauthorized Incomplete) for the course grade and will be required to repeat the course (at their additional expense).

Begin by determining an appropriate topic. Not all proposed courses are approved. See the Faculty list enclosed for a list of faculty specialties as a guide to who might be willing to mentor your study. Please bear in mind that your choice of independent study topic will be limited to the five disciplines represented in our program, and further by the topics in which our faculty have sufficient expertise to be willing to guide you.

You may propose a Creative Track Independent Study only if you have already received approval to participate in the Creative Study Track option (see the student handbook or HUX website for more information). Students in the Creative Track typically do two or three Creative Independent Study courses prior to their final Creative Project.

Develop a plan for readings and written assignments. Your eventual mentor may make alterations to your plan, but you are responsible to present a complete plan. For non-Creative courses, students should plan to write a total of 24-30 (typed, double-spaced) pages, broken up into at least two (normally three or four) assignments. As with all HUX courses, students should follow the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Projects* (or "MLA Style Manual") writing guidelines.

## Include With Your HUX 594 Proposal

- Fill out the enclosed 594 contract completely.
- On separate sheets, include the following:
  1. Working Title of the course.
  2. Your name and the term/year in which you want to take the course.

3. Brief description (one-half page) of your proposed course, including the scope (time period, topics, individuals, etc.) and central focus. Indicate in which discipline of the Humanities you will be working (Curriculum B; Disciplinary track), or in which two disciplines in the case of HUX 594F (Interdisciplinary course).
4. Assignments. Include specific assignment topics, number of papers (a minimum of two is required, and three is suggested), number of pages per paper, in which weeks of the term you will submit the papers, and whether you will use endnotes or footnotes in your papers.
5. Identify any material from other sources that you think you may include in your assignments, such as pictures, documents, or brochures as appropriate to your topic.
6. Bibliography including at least five sources that you plan to read. Include: a) full bibliographic reference, b) a three-sentence synopsis of each source; and c) a summary of each source's value to your thesis. Your sources should be recent, and if possible should include at least one pertinent professional journal article.
7. If you have a mentor in mind, include the name of the professor who has agreed to mentor or look at your proposal, or the name of the mentor you want us to approach. Please note that we may have to send your proposal to a different mentor than the one you request for a variety of reasons (e.g. availability, expertise). Look at the faculty page on the HUX website for information about faculty expertise.

### **After Your Proposal is Submitted**

Mail your proposal to the HUX office (HUX Program, California State University, Dominguez Hills, SAC 2-2126, 1000 E. Victoria St., Carson, CA 90747). Because of the time it takes to set up the course, the deadlines for proposal submission are:

Summer term course: Feb. 1  
Fall term course: May 1  
Spring term course: October 1

Do not send the forms directly to a HUX instructor. You may contact a HUX instructor informally to discuss your ideas and/or to ask him or her to consider mentoring your course, but the forms must go initially to the HUX office.

The HUX Coordinator will review your proposal and, if it looks workable, will forward it to a potential mentor. You will be contacted if you need to re-work the proposal or when a professor has agreed to mentor your course. **Do not attempt to enroll in the 594 course until you hear from the HUX office that you may do so.**

Be aware that your mentor may have specific additional requirements for you and may alter some of the terms of your proposed course.