Syllabus - COM 498 Independent Study

Professional values and competencies
Though independent studies vary in activities, responsibilities, and scope, students should complete the independent study with most of the following competencies:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to communications;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of communications in a global society;
3. Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
5. Think critically, creatively and independently;
6. Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communication’s professions in which they work;
7. Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communication’s professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
8. Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
9. Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communication’s professions in which they work.

Independent study guidelines
The point of an independent study is to allow you to propose a course of study (not just a project) in an area for which we do not currently offer courses. An academic supervisor will support you in your independent study. Proposals should be submitted to your academic supervisor by mid-term of the semester prior to the semester in which you plan to enroll in the independent study.

Please write a proposal in memo format that includes the below information:
1. The name of your course of study. The name should indicate a larger set of concerns, not just the project you want to do.
2. Two or three paragraphs that explain why this is a relevant study for Communications.
3. The specific material (books, articles, blogs, interviews) you will use to learn about this topic in general or to prepare for one or more of the projects you will create.
4. A description of the projects (papers, case studies, surveys, etc.) for this study.
5. A syllabus, with dates, that indicates when you will complete readings and projects. You cannot make all of your projects due at the end of the term. Drafts of projects must be due throughout the term.
6. Indication of requested appropriate credit hours.

After your proposal has been reviewed by your academic supervisor, it will be submitted to the Department of Communications Chair for review and approval within two weeks. The chair will make recommendation within two weeks of receipt. You will be informed of acceptance, rejection, or request for revision no later than study day of the term in which your proposal is submitted.

During the term in which you are registered for the independent study, you are responsible for following your syllabus and for meeting with your academic sponsor regularly (at least once a month).

Students’ final projects for the independent studies are often interesting pieces for others in the program to read, so we may post them online.

Disability Statement
It is the policy of the University of North Alabama to afford equal opportunity in education to qualified students. Therefore, a student who has a disability that inhibits the student’s ability to meet course requirements and who desires accommodations must contact the instructor and Developmental Services within the first three class meetings of the semester (within the first three days during summer terms). The goal is to develop a timely accommodation plan and to file an Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodation Form. Course requirements will not be waived but accommodations will be made to allow each student meet course requirements, provided the student acts within the first three class meetings in working with the instructor to develop an accommodation plan. If a disability is identified later in the semester, a non-retroactive accommodation plan will be developed at that time.