**SYLLABUS OUTLINE**

# AUBURN UNIVERISTY SYLLABUS

1. **Course Number:** CTSE 7900/7906

**Course Title:** Independent Study

**Credit Hours:** 1-6 semester hours (may be repeated for credit not to exceed 6 hours)

**Prerequisites:** Departmental approval

**Corequisites:** None

1. **Date Syllabus Prepared:** January 2000, Revised January 2019
2. **Texts or Major Resources:** Resources selected appropriate to the directed independent study.

# Course Description:

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to pursue topics of special interest that extend learning in other courses the students have taken or that are not treated in other course offerings. Each student develops an individual plan of study, which the professor approves before work begins. Students’ learning efforts are guided toward completion of objectives in the plan through regularly scheduled conferences with the professors.

The approved project/product/research/activity associated with independent study should require at least 30 hours of documented work for each one (1) hour of assigned credit.

# Course Objectives:

Students will be able to:

* 1. Identify a specific area of interest to study.
  2. In consultation with the professor, select a topical area of study.
  3. Write a proposal to guide completion of the study. The proposal will include a description of the study, objectives, methodology to be used in completing the study or project (including resources), and assessment/evaluation procedures. (See attached Guidelines.)
  4. List references used during completion of the study.
  5. Submit evidence of study/project completion, e.g., a finished product or paper.

# Course Content and Schedule:

The course is designed to provide students an opportunity to initiate study of a specific topic or completion of a project through directed independent study. Students will gain experience in conceptualizing a study or project, reviewing related literature, using various libraries and resource centers, and conducting computer-assisted searches in a specific area of interest. In addition, students will assume responsibility for completion of the project research or study and presenting it in a paper or finished product to the professor for the course.

# Course Requirements/Evaluation:

1. Attend an orientation session with professor.
2. Identify a topic and obtain approval from professor.
3. Write a proposal describing the study/project and a plan for completing and evaluating the study/project.
4. List references, using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th edition). (Begin list of references while writing the proposal and expand as work on the study/project progresses.)
5. Schedule a minimum of six visits with professor during the semester (checkpoints to be established for each meeting).
   1. Orientation meeting during Week 1
   2. Week 2 or Week 3
   3. Week 5 or Week 6
   4. Week 8 or Week 9
   5. Week 11 or Week 12
   6. Week 13 or Week 14
6. Submit paper or finished product when completed: Week 15
7. Present paper or product: Week 15 Evaluation:

The professor will determine whether the student has met the criteria established jointly by professor and student and will assign an *S* (Satisfactory) or *U* (Unsatisfactory) for the course. Weighted components will be the following:

Final paper or product (Due April 26) up to 70 points

Proposal approval (Due March 6) up to 10 points

Prezi presentation on topic/paper (April 26) up to 10 points

Meeting with professor and checkpoints completed (6 visits) up to 10 points (-1 point for each missed visit)

Satisfactory grades will be assigned only to independent study projects that earn at least 80 points.

# Late/remedial work policy

Please note assignments will not be accepted late unless the student has a university approved excuse.

# Class Policy Statements:

+ Participation: Students are expected to participate in all class discussions and participate in all exercises. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor if assignment deadlines are not met. Students are responsible for initiating arrangements for missed work.

+`Attendance/Absences: Attendance is required at each class meeting. If an exam is missed, a make-up exam will be given only for University-approved excuses as outlined in the AU ehandbook. Arrangement to take the make-up exam must be made in advance. Students who miss an exam, class meeting or assigned meeting time in the field because of illness need a doctor’s statement for verification of sickness and should clear the absence with the instructor the day they return to class. Other unavoidable absences from campus must be documented and cleared with the instructor **in advance**.

+ Unannounced quizzes: There will be no unannounced quizzes.

++ Accommodations: Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternative time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. Bring a copy of your Accommodation Memo and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Program for Students with Disabilities at 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

++ Honesty Code: The University Academic Honesty Code and the Tiger Cub Rules and Regulations pertaining to Cheating will apply to this class.

++ Professionalism: As faculty, staff, and students interact in professional settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College’s conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:

* Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices
* Contribute to collaborative learning communities
* Demonstrate a commitment to diversity
* Model and nurture intellectual vitality

+ Distance Learning Students: Unless specific instructions have been given for a designated course, students in distance education courses shall take all closed resource examinations under the supervision of an approved proctor. Examples of approved proctors include a school superintendent, a principal of a high school, or a dean or department head of a college. Proctors shall be verified and exams shall be sent directly to the proctor who will manage the examination in a secure manner, requiring students to present a picture ID.

# Justification for Graduate Credit (for Graduate Credit Only)

This course will allow individual graduate students to pursue in-depth study of advanced topics within their respective areas of specialization. Although guided by the professor at periodic checkpoints, the course requires independent work of the student to design, develop, and produce a product for presentation and examination.

PROPOSAL APPROVAL (10 points)

1. Cover Page
   1. Heading: CTSE 7900 Independent Study in (Area of Specialization).
   2. Professor’s Name
   3. Title of project
   4. Semester and Year
   5. Student Information
      1. Name
   6. Date
   7. Contract sign off (Student) (Date)

(Professor) (Date)

# Meeting dates with instructor for the course (10 points)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Student signature** | **Instructor signature** | **Date** |
| **2. Student signature** | **Instructor signature** | **Date** |
| **3. Student signature** | **Instructor signature** | **Date** |
| **4. Student signature** | **Instructor signature** | **Date** |
| **5. Student signature** | **Instructor signature** | **Date** |
| **6. Student signature** | **Instructor signature** | **Date** |

**PROJECT/PROPOSAL GUIDELINES (70 POINTS)**

for Independent Study

(Prepare two copies: one for the instructor and one for the student)

1. Cover Page
   1. Heading: CTSE 7900 Independent Study in (Area of Specialization).
   2. Professor’s Name
   3. Title of project/paper
   4. Semester and Year
   5. Student Information
      1. Name b.email address
   6. Date of submission
   7. Contract sign off (Student) (Date)

(Professor) (Date)

1. Body of Proposal (assignment should be double-spaced and in 12 point Times Roman. Use APA 6th edition for citations and references).
   1. Description of the topic, problem, activity, or concern (10 points)

Describe the features and major dimensions of the topic, proposed problem, activity, area of study, or concern. 1 page minimum, 2 page maximum.

* 1. The topic, problem, activity or concern and its significance (Topic: Informal Science Education) (10 points) 3 page minimum, 5 page maximum.

Discuss the challenge of integrating informal science into the “traditional” science classroom. Propose a study on informal science education. What would you like to learn more about relative to informal science? Use this to provide a context for you to propose a study on informal science education. Describe how you would propose conducting a study on informal science education at the AU Natural History Museum. What would you study and why? What would be your variables, sample, etc. How would you evaluate this study? What forms of assessment would you use to evaluate the study? Describe any variables associated with the proposed topic, problem, activity, or concern.

* 1. Supporting evidence and background on the topic of choice (10 points)

Review of related literature and background on informal science education. 5 pages minimum, 7 page maximum, Double spaced (10 points)

* 1. Provide an overview of 10 informal science education programs. Include the title of the program and 2 paragraphs (double spaced) overview of the informal science education program (Do not cut and paste from the internet. You must provide an overview that is in your own words and not copied from anywhere). (10 points)
  2. Provide a brief overview of your experience in the outreach setting (1 page minimum, 2 page maximum, double spaced). How did this experience inform you on the importance of having students visit informal science education venues. (10 points)
  3. Describe how you will integrate informal science experiences into your own classroom. What aspects of informal science will you use in your own classroom. How will you use technology to support your integration of informal science in the classroom? 2 page minimum 3 page maximum. (10 points)
  4. Resources (must have at least 10 citations) (10 points/1 point each) List the resources used for the research report.

# Presentation for paper/product (10 points) Prezi presentation on Informal science education which provides an overview of the paper submitted. Ten slides maximum. Presentation time limit: 10 minutes.

**Sign in sheet for field/outreach experience (Student will complete 30 hours) Date Student Signature hrs**