

Proposal Guidelines and Approval Form

LAS 504: Integration Independent Study

Course Description: Investigation of a specific topic based on the student's major interests or area of study. This is a required course in the Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree, and must be completed prior to registering for exit option hours. **Pre-Requisite:** Completion of at least two of the following: LAS 501, 502 or 503 with a co-requisite of the third, approval of proposal, and permission of LAS director.

The Integration Independent Study

This course provides the interdisciplinary student the opportunity to further explore an area of scholarly interest, in particular one that crosses disciplinary boundaries. The topic may draw on courses already completed. The student might think of this as an opportunity to develop their dream course, in consultation with a faculty member who has expertise in that field. Reading and writing expectations should be equivalent to those for a graduate seminar.

The Proposal

The proposal consists of a 250-500 word (approximate) description of the course subject area. It should address the following:

- What topic, questions, or issues are you interested in pursuing in this course?
- What prior coursework and/or experience will this course build upon?
- How will pursuit of this topic connect with your overall degree plan?
- What specific reading, writing, and other assignments will you complete as part of this course?

The proposal should include a bibliography of scholarly and/or primary texts.

Alternatively, the proposal could be developed like a graduate seminar syllabus.

Timeline

At the beginning of the semester *before* the student plans to enroll in LAS 504: the student should meet with the LAS director to discuss interests and options. That same semester will then be used to find and meet with a faculty director and prepare a proposal. *The student will not be registered for LAS 504 until they have a proposal approved by both the faculty director and LAS director.*

