

# UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

## Proposal for Independent Study for Graduate Students

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester and Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Spring, 2011

ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Independent Study Course Information

Course Reference No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. MAIR/SIS \_\_\_\_\_ Course No.: MAIR 291 Units: 2

Title (as it should appear on your transcript): \_\_\_\_\_ Cosmopolitanism in Intercultural Studies: An Annotated Bibliography

1. **Justification for this Independent Study.** Why do you want to design and undertake this Independent Study course? (The content of an Independent Study should not duplicate the content of a regularly-offered course.)

Although it has a strong historical background, cosmopolitanism is a concept which has been gaining interest in recent years in a number of academic fields. The rise of globalization and multinationalism has led theorists to revisit the cosmopolitan perspective to both advocate and critique it. Cosmopolitanism has strong links to theories of multiculturalism and cross-cultural communication; however, it has not been explored extensively within the intercultural communication literature. This independent study will explore the available research and literature on cosmopolitanism across disciplines and determine the links between theories of cosmopolitanism and intercultural relations by creating a detailed annotated bibliography.

2. **Description of the Content of this Independent Study.**

Through an extensive literature review, this independent study will focus on two things: First, it will identify the contributions of intercultural communication scholarship to contemporary theories of cosmopolitanism; Second, it will investigate theories and concepts of cosmopolitanism in other academic disciplines (e.g. sociology, anthropology, political science, global studies) in order to uncover any links between research and scholarship in the Intercultural Relations field and other academic disciplines.

I will explore the following questions:

- a. How cosmopolitanism is defined in the contemporary literature? What are the similarities and differences in the conception of cosmopolitanism among competing academic disciplines?
- b. How cosmopolitanism informs the interactions between individuals from different cultures? In what ways does cosmopolitanism create or inhibit successful intercultural communication? How can theories and concepts of cosmopolitanism benefit practicing interculturalists?
- c. What gaps are there in the literature, and what is the direction for future research concerning cosmopolitanism, especially in the field of intercultural relations?

3. **Educational Objectives of this Independent Study.** What do you expect to accomplish? What are your educational objectives in terms of skills to be learned and knowledge to be gained?

After completing this independent study I will be able to:

- a. Identify and analyze the key theories and perspectives of cosmopolitanism and explain their connection to the study of intercultural relations.

- b. Explain commonalities and differences between theories of cosmopolitanism across academic disciplines and assess the relationship of intercultural communications to other academic fields.
- c. Apply my knowledge of cosmopolitanism in professional interactions and improve my ability to assess and develop the intercultural competence of others.

4. **Design of the Study and Resources to be Used.** How are you going to accomplish your educational objectives? That is, what are you going to do, how are you going to do it, and what resources will you use? Please include a reading list (attach a separate sheet if necessary).

To accomplish my educational objectives, I will do the following:

- a. Research and locate existing resources on the topic of cosmopolitanism (Please see attached preliminary reading list)
- b. Read books and articles I have found on the topic of cosmopolitanism
- c. Analyze the literature I have found in terms of my above educational objectives and reflect on the usefulness of each source in advancing my knowledge as an interculturalist and contributing to the field of Intercultural Relations
- d. Assess and critique the appropriate literature in order to create evaluative annotations for each source

5. **Timeline.** What is your timeline for completing various tasks during this Independent Study course?

Activity 1. Submit and receive approval for Independent study project

Activity 2. Compile a list of potential resources for the bibliography. Select appropriate resources and identify new ones as I read them and compare between selections.

Activity 3. Write an evaluative annotation for each selected source.

Activity 4. Complete the independent study by organizing the annotations and writing an introduction and conclusion. The Biography will be completed by June 1, 2011.

6. **Method of Evaluation.** How will you and the instructor know that you have accomplished your educational objectives? How will you both determine your success, e.g. a term paper, a report, an observed performance, or some other measures?

The independent study will be complete when I have finished all of the activities mentioned above. My instructor will receive a copy of my completed annotated bibliography and will be able to evaluate its quality and whether it meets the standards of graduate level course work. The instructor will determine if I have met the objectives outlined in this proposal.

7. **Importance of this Independent Study.** How will this Independent Study course contribute significantly to your educational and life goals?

Doing this independent study will help me in two ways: First it will help me in my studies and future professional life by giving me the opportunity to develop and improve my research, professional writing, and analytical skills; Second, an in depth knowledge of the subject matter I intend to study will be valuable to me in any professional environment since it will help me to better understand people who I may interact with on a daily basis. I plan to be in my present location for several years, and the intercultural work that I may do here would very likely involve expatriate/cosmopolitan communities.

<b>Signatures</b>		
Student	_____	Date _____
Instructor	_____	Date _____
Department Chair	_____	Date _____
Dean	_____	Date _____

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