

Information for ART/DES 418 Independent Study

The nature of independent study classes is student-motivated, with students taking the initiative. The students are to initiate their own projects, determine what research needs to be done, and carry out the projects independently. *Projects should consist of scholarly rather than commercial pursuits.* Roski faculty mentor and give feedback, but do not teach as they do in regular structured classes. The independent nature of ART/DES 418 is very valuable to art students; however, because it requires self-discipline, self-motivation, and a firm basis of knowledge, it is not appropriate for every student.

What are the requirements for an Independent Study?

- 3.0 grade point average for all USC coursework.
- Firm basis of knowledge: Independent Study should be about executing a specific project. It cannot be exclusively about learning a specific skill. You need to have successfully completed at least one upper division class in the media in which you want to pursue an independent study. For example, if you want to pursue ART 418 in Drawing, you need to have completed at least a 300-level studio course in Drawing.
- Because group critique is so very valuable to the development of an artist, it is highly recommended that students enroll in regularly scheduled classes instead of ART 418. Know that most 4-unit 400-level advanced studio classes can be taken up to 3 times, for a total of 12 units.
- You must have an established working relationship with your faculty mentor. Your faculty mentor must be a full-time faculty and must not be on leave or sabbatical the semester you wish to work with him/her:

Bob Alderette	Jason Ellenburg	Suzanne Lacy	Brian O'Connell	Jennifer West
Edgar Arceneaux	Jud Fine	Karen Liebowitz	Ruben Ochoa	Ewa Wojciak
Nao Bustamante	Alice Fung	Marisa Mandler	Julia Paull	Alexis Zoto
Patty Chang	Sherin Guirguis	Keith Mayerson	Oswaldo Trujillo	
Caroline Clerc	David Kelley	Thomas Müller	Ruth Weisberg	

**This list may change from semester to semester; contact Antonio Bartolome anbartol@usc.edu for the faculty's sabbatical schedule*

Faculty need ample time and resources to work with students on an independent basis. If you have met all the above requirements, determine the project(s) you want to do for your independent study, and ask the faculty if he or she is willing and able to supervise you in an independent study. Taking on a student for independent study is always at the faculty's discretion. Part-time adjunct faculty members can be considered as mentors; however, this must be approved in advance by both the Dean and the Vice Dean of Faculty.

- Fill out the contract on reverse with your faculty mentor. Attach a clear description of your proposed project(s). *Think of this as your syllabus for this course.* Please be clear about the following: Media you will be working in, subject matter, concept, number and size of finished piece(s), weekly timeline – deadlines for different aspects or sections of your project, as well as a bibliography list of research and readings for your project.
- You must include the EXACT times that you and your faculty mentor have both set aside each week to meet and talk about your independent projects. Include days of the week and times of day (i.e. MW 12- 2pm). The time should be outside of your faculty mentor's regularly scheduled classes.
- Meetings for 4 units of independent study should be scheduled for a minimum of **three hours each week**. Meeting times will be reduced proportionately for fewer units (e.g. for 2 units, meetings should be scheduled for a minimum of one hour every week). Students are expected to devote 2-3 hours per week of studio work for each independent study unit taken.
- A maximum of 12 units of ART/DES 418 credit may be applied towards a USC degree.
- **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: AUGUST 1 for fall semester, DECEMBER 1 for spring semester.**

Contract for ART/DES- 418 Independent Study

Please read information and course requirements on reverse.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: AUGUST 1 for fall semester, DECEMBER 1 for spring semester.

Name: _____ Current USC GPA: _____

ID#: _____ Class Standing: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Major: _____ Semester/Year: _____

Which 300/400-level Roski Studio course(s) have you completed? _____

Your mentor must be a full-time Roski faculty (listed on reverse) unless approved by the Dean.

Full-time Faculty Mentor _____

ART/DES-418 Faculty Mentor 5-digit section (from Schedule of Classes): _____ Proposed Units (circle): 1 2 3 4

Adjunct Faculty Mentor _____

Please attach your project proposal. This will be your syllabus and contract for the course. It should be 3-5 pages long, and must include specific details about the following:

1. Media you will be working with
2. Subject matter, concept, and theoretical considerations of your project
3. Quantifiable size and number of your finished project(s), for example: 5 paintings, approx 18" x 24"
4. Weekly timeline and due dates: Which projects and research components will you work on during each week of term? What are the deadlines for various stages of the project(s), and final project completion?
5. Bibliography: Provide a detailed list of at least five specific books and/or journals that you will read as part of the research for this project. Visit the Architecture and Fine Arts Library for assistance or ask your faculty mentor.
6. How does this project contribute towards your understanding of art or your development as an artist?
7. Faculty meetings: Note the exact times you and your faculty mentor have set aside each week to meet and talk about your ART/DES 418 projects: (Must be outside of your faculty's scheduled classes)

Days: _____ Hours: _____ Frequency: _____

Student Signature + Date: _____

Full-time Faculty Mentor Approval Signature + Date: _____

Adjunct Faculty Mentor Approval Signature + Date: _____

○ Vice Dean of Faculty Approval Signature + Date: _____

○ Dean Approval Signature + Date: _____

Once your proposed contract is approved and signed off by all above, submit this form to Watt Hall 104 Roski Advisement Office.

D-Clearance _____ Student Notified _____ Copy to faculty mentor(s) _____ Copy to Student _____ Student's File _____