

## H. INDEPENDENT READING COURSE

### 1. PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

*Approved by Council, Winter, 1996*

A proposal for an Independent Reading Course contains the following components:

- an Independent Reading Course Proposal Form Cover Sheet* (see page 19). This form requires the signature of the student and the approval of the Course Director and Graduate Program Director BEFORE the Independent Reading Course can begin. Please note that approval is not automatic and the Graduate Program Director may request clarification of the Independent Reading Course before granting its approval. **Proposals must be typed.**
- (b) *the provision of a specific title for the course indicating the focal area of interest.* This is simply the name of the course. Please note that it is not sufficient to name the course as either Independent Reading or Directed Study. **The title should not have more than 40 characters, including spaces.**
  - (c) *a description of the topic of the course.* This description should situate the course within a theoretical/conceptual framework and should indicate the specific areas that will be emphasized. Independent Reading Courses must not overlap with courses offered within the current academic year and may not be used for the preparation of a literature review for a thesis or research project.
  - (d) *a rationale for proposing the course.* A rationale should incorporate:
    - η a discussion of the place of the Independent Reading Course in the student's overall graduate programme,
    - η an indication of whether or not the proposed course is available in current offerings in the Faculty of Graduate Studies,
    - η a statement outlining why this topic is a special interest of the student
    - η a discussion of any related research work the student has undertaken in this area.
  - (e) *a preliminary bibliography.* This bibliography should be linked closely with the title and description of the course. For the purposes of the proposal, it is considered a preliminary reading list and not the entire listing of the resources the student will use in pursuit of the directed reading; however, it is expected that the bibliography will reflect substantive theoretical concerns addressed in the course description. Photo-copies of bibliographies from other sources will not be accepted.
  - (f) *a statement detailing arrangements for the course.* In this statement the following should be specified: frequency of meetings and the duration of meetings.
  - (g) *a statement outlining the work required for the course.* In this statement the following should be specified: the regular expectations for the course (independent of assignments) and the assignments for the course. Regular expectations for the course would include meetings with the course director, readings and so on. Since attendance at these meetings is part of the regular expectation of the course, it is anticipated that attendance should not be allotted a grade weighting. The substance of the course assignments should be described. For example, one assignment might be an individual paper.
  - (h) *a statement indicating the relative weighting for each of the assignments.*

### 2. DEADLINES

Graduate students are urged to plan well. If a student is requesting to undertake an Independent Reading Course, the application should be submitted **WELL BEFORE** the drop and add period for the semester during which the Independent Reading Course is to be undertaken. Because Independent Readings courses are like any other courses that are offered, faculty and students should ensure that proposals are submitted in a timely manner so that they can be reviewed by the Graduate Executive Committee, and, if necessary, any issues needing clarification in the proposal are addressed.

**Independent Reading Course (EDUC 5900 3.0)  
Proposal Form  
Cover Sheet**

**Graduate Programme in Education, York University**

Date of Submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date of Onset of Independent Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (no more than 40 characters including spaces) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Executive Committee Approval/  
Programme Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_