

INDEPENDENT STUDY AGREEMENT

Department of Communication and Theater Arts

Monmouth College

Prof. Trudi K. Peterson, Independent Study Supervisor, and Kyle R. Christensen, Monmouth College Student, agree to fulfill the requirements for the following course:

CATA 490 – Independent Study in Principles of Symbolic Interactionism and Rhetorical Criticism

Justification:

This independent study will allow Kyle R. Christensen to explore the role that poetry, more specifically Japanese haiku poetry, has in shaping one's identity, through an analysis under the lens of symbolic interactionism. The two poets whom Christensen has chosen for this study are Richard Wright and Kobayashi Issa, both recognizable figures in their respective Western and Eastern cultures. Christensen will use symbolic interactionism as a guiding theory to realizing the two poets' particular views of self in their environments (apparent in their differing approaches to haiku poetry) and understanding how one major art form may play a significant part in subconsciously constructing an individual's perceptions of his or her function in the world.

Learning Goals: The student will ...

- -Become familiar with the current state of theory in symbolic interactionism
- -Demonstrate specific knowledge of the field of symbolic interactionism
- -Understand the formative duty communication serves in the development of personal identities
- -Demonstrate advanced skill in uncovering and evaluating information
- -Learn proper techniques for attaining and scrutinizing scholarly texts
- -Construct an effectively written, theory-centered paper
- -Gain an appreciation for theoretical approaches in the study of communication

Project Activities: For the independent study, student Kyle R. Christensen will ...

- -Collect credible scholarly sources and compose an extensive research report. Christensen agrees to:
- -Conduct a significant portion of independent research investigation through the database Communication & Mass Media Complete, alongside gathering other printed publications
- -Devise a critical method to analyze elements of symbolic interactionism as applicable to that of traditional haiku poetry
- -Locate and read at least 10 journal articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and at least 10 scholarly publications
- -Complete an original critical essay that examines the social theory of symbolic interactionism as inherent in the poetry of Kobayashi Issa and Richard Wright

Student Responsibilities during the Independent Study:

Christensen plans to spend the remainder of the Spring 2007 semester compiling all necessary research works and then sort through the materials during the summer between Spring 2007 and Fall 2007. When Christensen returns for the Fall 2007 semester, he will prepare a detailed outline of his paper in early-mid September, upon which he will create a rough draft of his paper to be handed in to Peterson on October 15. Following critiques and feedback from Peterson, Christensen will complete a final draft of his paper, to be submitted to Peterson on November 30. Christensen will consult with Peterson on a monthly basis (or more frequently as needed) and

deliver a public presentation of his findings in Peterson's CATA 230: Introduction to Communication Studies course at the end of the semester.

Additionally, the student will:

- submit a research paper to the faculty supervisor and to the department at the completion of the independent study,
- make an oral presentation to students and faculty in the department, if asked, and
- present a self-evaluation based on the experience of completing the independent study project.

The faculty supervisor will complete and submit to the department chair the standard independent study evaluation form.

Evaluation Methods: Evaluated under normal and appropriate grading criterion (This section is a bit too vague)

Credit: 3 semester hours, Term: Fall Year: 2007

Agreed to: By: _____ **Date:** _____

And: _____ **Date:** _____

N.B.: If this form is not completed, signed and submitted within 10 days of beginning the semester, credit for the independent study may not be granted. You must include all of the requested contact information below

cc: Kyle Christensen (MC Box # 114)

cc: Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Trudi K. Peterson
COMM Chair: Dr. Lee McGaan
Registrar: Susan Dagit