

Media Studies 199: Supervised Independent Study for Internships

Academic Senate regulations do not permit students to obtain units for work experience alone. Students who wish to earn units in conjunction with an internship must complete a supervised reading and writing component. The Media Studies program offers declared majors the option of taking a one or two unit independent study in conjunction with their internships. These units are offered on a P/NP basis only. Students who are interested in signing up for MS 199 should read the sections on Independent and Group Study in the “Earning Your Degree” handbook available in the lobby outside 206 Evans Hall (L&S Advising Office). The following limitations apply:

- Students enrolled in 199 courses must have completed at least 60 semester units and must be in good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher).
- Credit for all 98, 99, 198, & 199 courses together can not exceed 4 units in a single semester.
- Only a grade of P/NP may be assigned.
- No more than 16 units in total in 98, 99, 198, & 199 courses can be earned and applied to your undergraduate degree.

Media Studies 199 allows you to earn P/NP course credit by writing an essay in which you analyze your media-related work experience with the assistance of current scholarship and theory in media studies. In doing so, your task synthesizes theory and practice, using examples drawn from “real world” work experience to help illustrate theoretical concepts or arguments and explanations.

One Unit Assignment:

Choose *one* important concept that you have studied in a Media Studies core course or elective. First, define the concept clearly, using relevant scholarship from course readings or outside reading. Do not depend on Wikipedia or Google-type searches for this task. Use scholarly, academic sources. If you have not yet taken any core courses for the major, you should talk with your adviser for ideas about appropriate readings for this assignment. Second, illustrate the concept by either describing an event you observed in the workplace, or discussing a project you were involved in. You may also include information gained from conducting an interview with another individual employed by the company you worked for. Be specific. For example, Pierre Bourdieu in *On Television* discusses the importance of “the scoop” in shaping television news. Illustrate this concept by detailing a particular broadcast at KTVU’s *Ten O’Clock News* in which a breaking story was promoted as “exclusive” to the station and was given a lead position in the program.

Two Unit Assignment:

Choose *two or three* important concepts that you have studied in a Media Studies core course or elective. Define each concept, using appropriate scholarly sources. (See above.) Illustrate each concept, using examples drawn from observations or experiences in your internship. Try to show the relationship of the concepts to each other. Be specific and explicit. (See above.)

For both assignments:

- Essays should be typed and double-spaced, using a standard typeface and margins.
- Use in-text citations (not footnotes).
- A full bibliography (Works Cited) must be included with your essay.
- You should plan to come in at least once during the semester to discuss the assignment with your adviser.
- Please retain a copy of your essay. The copy that you turn in will remain on file in the Media Studies program.

Due: by the first day of final exams in 258 Evans Hall (in your Faculty Adviser’s mailbox)

Length: 5 pages for 1 unit of P/NP credit

10 pages for 2 units of P/NP credit

The following requirements of the Media Studies program must also be met:

By the last day of the third week of classes:

- ✓ Visit your Faculty Adviser to collect the assignment prompt, assessment forms, and a CEC (Course Entry Code) in order to enroll in the course.
- ✓ Read the assignment prompt and assessment forms carefully.
- ✓ Complete the Internship Assessment: Part 1 form and return it to your Faculty Adviser.

By the first day of the exam period:

- ✓ Complete the one or 2 unit assignment.
- ✓ Complete the Internship Assessment: Part II form and attach it to your essay
- ✓ Submit both the form and essay to your Faculty Adviser. Retain a copy for your files; essays will remain permanently on file with the Media Studies program.

These deadlines and assignments are not negotiable. Complete all assignments on time to pass this course.

PLEASE NOTE:

Because courses taken to satisfy major requirements for Media Studies must be taken for a letter grade, your work in MS 199 will NOT count towards the 30 upper-division units required for the major. The MS 199 units will count towards the 120 units needed to graduate from the University.

Assignments that are purely descriptive or assignments that are written in a “promotional” style are not acceptable. Papers that merely replicate another assignment from a Media Studies class are also not acceptable. This assignment asks you to think critically, analytically, and synthetically (understanding and illustrating the relationship between theory and practice). These are upper-division university units and will be assigned only for upper-division university quality work. If you have any questions about what this means, you should talk to the adviser well before the due date for this essay.

It is possible to fail (receive a NP grade in) MS 199 for any of the following reasons:

- handing in inappropriate or poor quality work
- failing to complete all assignments by the deadlines
- plagiarizing any part of the assignment

No late papers will be accepted. Incompletes will be given only under extreme circumstances and must be approved prior to the due date (first day of final exams).

Internship Assessment: Part I

- Fall 20____
 - Spring 20____
 - Summer 20____
- ____ One unit ____ Two units
Total units in progress this semester: _____

Name of Student Intern: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Name of Sponsoring Agency: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor: _____ Her/His work phone: (____) _____

Date started: _____ Your work phone: (____) _____

Your job title and description of your duties: _____

How/where did you find out about this internship? _____

When and how did you apply? _____

When did you interview? _____

Have you had previous internship experience? If so, what kind? _____

How many hours per week are you required to work? _____

How flexible is your work supervisor about scheduling your hours? _____

How do you get to work (mode of transportation)? _____

How long does it take you to get from campus to work? _____

Have you encountered any problems with this location? At night? _____

OPTIONAL RELEASE CONSENT:
Parts I and II of your internship assessment, as well as your assignment, will be held in confidence—unless you sign this release form. By signing this release form you are agreeing to allow other students to review this material in order to make more informed decisions about potential internships. This information will NEVER be released to intern-sponsoring agencies or to any individual who is not a registered student.

RELEASE (signed): _____ Date: _____

Internship Assessment: Part II

(Please attach to your essay and submit by the first day of final exams.)

___ One unit ___ Two units

Name of Student Intern: _____

Name of Sponsoring Agency: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor: _____

Dates worked: _____ to _____

Please answer all questions fully and informatively; this is part of your assignment for MS 199.

Were you given a formal company orientation? If so, please describe _____

What kind of training did you receive? Was it adequate for the tasks to which you were assigned? _____

What duties were you assigned? What projects did you work on? _____

Were you comfortable with the level of supervision you received? Please explain _____

Given the amount of training your received, were you left to your own initiative too much, not enough, or about the right amount? _____

What *skills* did you develop or improve in this internship? _____

What were the *strong* points of this internship? _____

What were the *weak* points of this internship? _____

Please add any additional comments relevant to your internship _____

Please answer all questions fully and informatively; this is part of your assignment for MS 199.

OPTIONAL RELEASE CONSENT:

Parts I and II of your internship assessment, as well as your assignment, will be held in confidence—unless you sign this release form. By signing this release form you are agreeing to allow other students to review this material in order to make more informed decisions about potential internships. This information will NEVER be released to intern-sponsoring agencies or to any individual who is not a registered student.

RELEASE (signed): _____ Date: _____