Independent Study

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Objectives
The Independent Study Course in Communication Studies is a research oriented course which requires the development of a research question, paper and a public presentation. Your work should reflect your interests in the field of communication. Details will be arranged with Dr. Merrick, including reading selections, exams and projects.

Assignments:
- **Research Question and Proposal:** A final draft of your research question, along with a one-page rationale for study.
- **Annotated Bibliography.**  
- **Final Project Draft.**  
- **Final Paper.**  
- **Presentation:** You will present your work during the final weeks of the semester.

Grade Distribution
Your final grade will be determined by the percentage of total points that you earn. Plus/minus grading will be used.  
The breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Question/Proposal</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft (Optional)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Academic Integrity:
Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, or any behavior deemed unethical will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted in strict accordance with Westminster College policies. See your student handbook for details.