COMMUNICATIONS 496
Application for Independent Study

INSTRUCTIONS:

Although not specifically designated an “honors” course, COMM 496 is planned primarily for
the superior undergraduate student who has achieved 6th semester standing. It provides him/her
an opportunity to broaden his/her background, conduct scholarly research, and carry out
professional projects in communications that do not fit into conventional classroom programs. In
all cases, the course will involve the preparation of a major report. The student project will not
be as extensive as the production of a master’s thesis, but it will require more effort than an
ordinary semester paper. The report may be either a “scholarly” production or a “journalistic”
one – these descriptions need be considered mutually exclusive.

Two general types of projects will be acceptable:

1. The student may choose some phase of mass communications for study and examine and
   investigate it from the standpoint of a scholar. His/her written result might be in the
   nature of a monograph or article for a scholarly or professional publication.

2. The student may choose a problem or topic that he/she would like to address involving
   mass communication. His/her project might be a series of newspaper interpretive articles
   or features, a magazine article or articles, a radio or television documentary, or
   photographic series.

Before submitting this application, the student should discuss his/her proposed independent study
project with his/her advisor and then with the faculty supervisor of his/her independent study
project. The student may not register for 496 until an approved application is on file.

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Student’s Signature __________________________

Student’s ID#: ___________________________ Present GPA: __________ Date: ______________

Major: ___________________________ Semester of study: FA _____ SP _____ SU ______

Proposed # of credits (to be determined by student and Faculty Supervisor (1-3)): _______

Faculty Supervisor: ______________________ Signature __________________________

Department Head: ______________________ *Signature __________________________

*Approved by Department Head as: Major Rqmt: ____________ or Elective _______
   (list rqmt) (check)

Dean’s Signature: __________________________ Approved for _______credits
Grades in Communications Courses:

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Brief description of subject to be studied:

(Attach one copy of a more detailed description of the project, explaining the purpose and giving an outline of the study program, including readings, sources, and methods to be used.)

**Personal Statement:** Give reasons why you believe you are capable of successfully completing the independent study project (background courses, interest in the matter, etc.):

Additional comments: