

## IS Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am prepared to undertake my senior Independent Study with a good attitude and a willing spirit! I do understand that this process is a combination of independence of thought and action with collaborative exploration.

**I understand that completing the following things by the deadlines indicated are required, but not necessarily sufficient, to pass PSYC451.**

1. I will come prepared for weekly meetings with my advisor.
  - a. "Prepared" means pre-established objectives completed with evidence of continued reading, writing (as appropriate), and critical thought.
2. I will turn in a preliminary schedule of deadlines to meet by the week of September 5<sup>th</sup> 2011.
  - a. This schedule will be revisited/revised in collaboration with my advisor throughout the semester (approximately every or every other week)
3. I will schedule/block at least 10 hours each week that will be devoted specifically for IS.
4. **I will turn in a final 20-page version of the Introduction as well as an entire Method section by December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 4 pm to Mary Spencer (the departmental administrative assistant). This draft will have at least 30 references and be written in APA style (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)**
5. I take full responsibility for organizing, scheduling and honoring all data collection activities.
6. I will hand-in all hard copies of data to my advisor throughout the duration of IS. I understand that my IS will be considered "Incomplete" at the end of the year if this data is not turned in.
7. I take full responsibility for maintaining confidentiality and/or anonymity of all research participants, their responses, opinions and involvement in my study. I further agree to abide by all relevant ethics policies (such as the APA ethics code). In doing so, I will report any changes to my protocol or ethics violations to the Wooster HSRC.
8. I will clean up after my own messes and those of unknown origin that appear in classroom or lab space while I am collecting data. I will return all equipment clean, in working order, and ready to use. I understand that I am responsible for any equipment, furniture, rooms, etc. that I use.

I understand that a failure to meet these goals/guidelines may result in a grade of either Incomplete or of NC (no credit) and that either of these grades may necessitate me taking 451 again in the spring and coming back in the fall of 2012 to complete 452.

I understand that any form of cheating will not be tolerated by my advisor(s), by the College, or by the scientific community. I understand that any incident of cheating will result in consequences that may include failure of the course as well as expulsion from The College. I understand that cheating includes any sort of scientific fraud, willful misrepresentation of data, and plagiarism, whether willful or otherwise.

I understand that depending upon the progress of my project, I may be required to spend part of my winter break completing my research, and that failure to do so may result in my inability to complete this project to the satisfaction of my advisor, the Department, and/or The College of Wooster.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Dr. K Recommendations:

1. Stay organized!!!
  - a. Find an easy way to back-up your data/documents and organize multiple drafts. My recommendations are as follows:
    - i. Wooster Novell space (see IT helpdesk)
    - ii. Dropbox.com (an awesome, free application that I use for my own work --- I will be happy to show you the basics)
  - b. Keep your hard materials organized as well – I recommend a 3-ring binder (I used two 3” binders for my undergraduate thesis)
2. Read, read, read...you will need to become the “campus expert” in your topic, and the only way to do that is to read a lot of literature on the topic. You will read papers that may not even be in your Literature Review, but they may be important for your general knowledge and your oral defense. In my experience, students who earn the highest remarks are those who demonstrate a clear mastery of the subject matter (both historical and current).
3. Read through The Department’s I.S. Assessment Rubric, Handbook, and Frequently Asked Questions (Link available from: **<http://www3.wooster.edu/psychology/is.htm>**)
4. Dream big – but keep in mind that many *Questions* are answered through *multiple Programs of research* that take *years* to complete. You will serve yourself, your department, and your field better if you conduct a well-designed study that answers very clearly a small piece of an important question, as opposed to a poorly-designed study with too many variables (where ultimately you won’t be able to answer any questions with any certainty).