

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code	DD5008 (DD9007)
Course Title	Independent Study
Pre-requisites	NIL
No of AUs	3
Contact Hours	39 hours studio contact

Course Aims

In this advanced level course, you will define and explore a creative independent topic where you will acquire an experience-based knowledge of the expectations of self-directed practice. The nature of the topic will reflect your existing area of expertise and will be developed through discussion with your potential supervisor. You will already have the ability to work independently with a mature and focused approach, maintaining momentum throughout the various stages of the study. Your supervisor will provide feedback and guidance at pre-arranged times. This course provides the opportunity to study areas not covered by the curriculum and can also serve as preparation for higher level independent study such as final-year projects or post-graduate level study.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Develop an independent topic programme that describes all stages including time management and specific milestones.
2. Describe preparatory research that is pertinent to the topic
3. Develop an appropriate creative process to explore the requirements of the topic.
4. Apply creative techniques, processes, mediums, materials, at a proficient level as required by the topic
5. Clearly communicate the achievements of all stages and respond to feedback and discussion.

Course Content

In this advanced level course, you will define and explore a creative independent topic under supervision by an assigned faculty. The nature of the topic will reflect your existing area of expertise and will be developed through discussion with your potential supervisor. The topic may be in a new area that extends your current abilities but should be appropriate to your area of proficiency. An Independent Study will be a topic already covered in the curriculum.

A key requirement of an independent study is the ability to manage yourself efficiently and with discipline. While your supervisor will provide feedback and guidance, they are not responsible for maintaining your momentum. This type of study therefore requires personal discipline, in both creative endeavours and in workload management. Before being accepted into an independent study, your previous work will need to demonstrate that you are suitable.

You will meet with you supervisor at pre-determined times. Being an independent topic, this will

be less frequent than a studio-based course. It may be two-weekly, or a set number of meetings throughout the course. The number of meetings will be set by the supervisor.

The form of the final submission will be appropriate to the medium. At final submission, you will present your creative result, describing the topic, the research, your creative question, the process, and the final result. You will describe clearly how your result meets the requirements of the topic and take part in discussion about the work.

There is only one submission, at the culmination of the study. Your supervisor will feedback regarding your progress to ensure that you are aware of your progress. Sixty percent of the assessment is based on Continuous Assessment, so the regular meetings that demonstrate progress are important. Continuous assessment components include the assessment of ability to critically reflect upon the project and to articulate this reflection, the engagement with the demands of the ongoing creative process, the need to sustain creative self-sufficiency, the ability to manage the practical aspects of the project and the ability to respond positively to criticism.

Special note:

Acceptance to this course is through submission of a one-page document that outlines salient features of their proposed project. This document should be submitted directly to the supervising faculty.

Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Component	ILO Tested	Programme LO	Weighting	Team/ Individual
Continuous Assessment 1 (20%) Project Topic Research Describe background research to support topic	1,2,3,4,5	--	20%	Individual
Continuous Assessment 2 (20%) Establish specific creative requirements for a Project	1,2,3,4,5	--	20%	Individual
Continuous Assessment 3 (20%) Develop responses to established requirements for a Project	1,2,3,4,5	--	20%	Individual
Final Project (40%) Submission of final creative conclusion 20% Final work demonstrates original creativity and innovation 20%	2,3,4,5	--	40%	Individual
Total			100%	

Reading and References

A reading list or other reference material, such is appropriate to the student's particular project, will be suggested by the supervising faculty.

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

(1) General

You are expected to complete all assigned readings, activities, assignments, attend all classes punctually and complete all scheduled assignments by due dates. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with assignments and course related announcements. You are expected to participate in all project critiques, class discussions and activities.

(2) Punctuality

You are expected to be punctual for all classes. If you are more than 30 minutes late, you will be deemed as absent and will not be able to sign on the attendance register.

(3) Absenteeism

In-class activities make up a significant portion of your course grade. Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your participation grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies. There will be no make-up opportunities for in-class activities.

Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values.

As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

Planned Weekly Schedule*

*Subject to adjustment by instructor according to the teaching situation, students' progress, public holidays and unforeseeable circumstances. A revised schedule will be issued to students at the start of the semester.

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	Opening meeting	1,5	Meeting with supervisor

	Topic Definition Start of Topic Research		Ascertaining the nature of the topic. Discussion of the topic and creative approach. Overview of starting resources.
2-4	Research	1,2,5	Independent research of topic Background reading. Exploration of theoretical approach. Establishment of possible theoretical and explorative direction.
5	Meeting with supervisor	1,2,	Meeting with supervisor Demonstrate progress. Describe research and possible explorative processes. Discussion of way forward.
6-8	Active research and development	1,2,3,5	Active research and development. Exploration of processes. Acquiring data. Field research. Technique development. Development of creative processes in response to requirements of topic.
9	Meeting with supervisor	1,2,3,5	Meeting with supervisor Demonstrate progress. Describe research and possible explorative processes. Discussion of way forward.
10-12	Creative application	1,2,3,4,5	Creative Application Application of creative process to the development of the response to the topic. Aesthetic and formal aspects.
13	Final Presentation and Submission	2,3,4,5	Final Presentation and Submission Final creative response to the topic. Description of research, demonstration of process development and application to the production of the final creative result. Response to discussion.