Directed Reading Project

Student Name: ________________________________________________

Previous Credit Hours Awarded for 505, 494, or 495: _________________

Number of Credits To Be Earned: ONE or TWO (circle one)

Semester for Project: _____________________________________________

Name of Supervising Faculty Member: ______________________________

Title of Project: __________________________________________________

Describe the nature, scope, and objective of the project:

Schedule for meetings and development of a directed reading project, one of which must be with a Research Librarian. The minimum number of meetings with your supervising faculty member is five.

Agreed Completion Date: _________________________________________

Student Signature: _____________________________________________

I agree to supervise this student on this project, as prescribed by the Guidelines for Completing a Directed Reading Project (found on following pages). The work will be graded on a pass/fail basis and will count toward a student’s nine-hour limit on pass/fail credits. No more than three hours of 505, 494, and 495 4credit may be awarded to an individual student.

______________________________
Supervising Faculty Member Signature
As stated in the course description, if a student seeks to continue or expand on work that the student initiated previously for a course, clinic, externship, practicum, or paid work, a student must (1) share the initial work with the professor supervising the project, to the extent that work is non-privileged, and (2) obtain permission for the expansion from the instructor or supervisor who supervised the initial project. If this applies, the following two signatures are necessary:

I agree to share the initial work with the professor supervising the project, to the extent the work is non-privileged.

_________________________________________________________________
Student Signature

As the instructor or supervisor who supervised the initial project, I agree to allow the student to expand the previous work.

__________________________________________________________________
Original Instructor or Supervisor
Guidelines for Completing a Directed Reading Project

Project Proposal: With a directed reading project a student, in consultation with a supervising faculty member, reads a collection of materials in an area of interest that cannot be explored in the context of existing classes. Accordingly, you should have an interest that is reasonably well-defined before requesting faculty supervision. You should begin by preparing a proposal for a directed reading project to submit to a potential faculty supervisor. The proposal should set forth a potential topic and note the background research you have conducted. If you seek to continue or expand on work that you initiated previously (whether for a course, clinic, externship, practicum, or paid work) you must share the initial work with the professor supervising the project, to the extent that work is non-privileged, when presenting the project proposal.

Topic Development: An initial meeting with your faculty supervisor will help to identify an interesting and focused project. A directed reading project should be more ambitious than a review of the state of the law or scholarship in a particular area—you should engage in some independent analysis and seek to advance the discussion. To the extent the project expands on work initially assigned in, or conceived during, a course, clinic, externship, practicum, or paid work experience, the project must represent a meaningful and substantial contribution to the already existing project. Within two weeks of your first meeting, you should submit a brief (one-paragraph to one-page) précis to your faculty supervisor for approval and comment. The précis should state the specific questions you will explore. You should expect your faculty supervisor to provide comments within one week.

Grading: At your initial meeting, you should ensure you understand the faculty advisor’s expectations for awarding a passing grade.

Reading List: In the first month of your project you should consult with a Research Librarian and thereafter send your faculty advisor a bibliography that lists the primary and secondary sources you plan to read. You should expect your faculty supervisor to provide comments within one week.

Discussions: You should expect to meet with your faculty supervisor at least five times to discuss your thoughts and reactions to your directed reading.

Response Papers & Discussions: You should expect to write at least five response papers and meet with your faculty supervisor to engage in a thoughtful discussion of your response papers.