Selecting a Topic and the Outline for an Independent Study

The way an independent study works is that you write a comprehensive paper on a topic of your choice that typically has an outline as listed below. The independent study will be supervised by one of the College of Business faculty or UNR faculty whose expertise will fit the topic selected. If you decide to do an independent study, please contact the MBA Office to make an appointment with the program’s director.

1. Introduction (here, you explain the importance of the topic that you have chosen),

2. Review of Literature (here, you do a review of important studies done on your topic and provide a summary of the findings of each study),

3. Research Design (here, Based on review of literature, you explain on how you are going to examine your question/problem that you have chosen for your research),

4. Analysis of Results (here, you discuss the most important findings of your analysis that may support or reject your question/problem), and

5. Summary and Conclusion (here, you summarize the findings of your research).

6. Reference Page / Bibliography. Please use American Psychological Association (APA) 5th ed. format. For further information go to: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01

Other Notes

1. Note that the outline above is just a suggested one and you can certainly modify it at your discretion in consultation with the faculty advisor for the independent study.

2. Using the suggested format of the report for an independent study, the following is a general guideline on the number of pages for each section: 3 pages for Introduction, 10 pages for Review of Literature, 8 pages for Research Design, 10 pages for Analysis of Results, 4 pages for Summary and Conclusion, and 2 pages or more for the Bibliography.
3. You’ll provide the faculty advisor regular progress report on your independent study throughout the semester. The due date for the final report on the independent study is as follows: the first week of December if the independent is taken in the Fall Semester and the first week of May if the independent study is taken in the Spring semester.

4. The final grades for the course are determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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5. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY VIOLATES UNIVERSITY POLICY
According to the UNR Student Handbook, academic dishonesty is defined as cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses. Plagiarism is defined as submitting the language, ideas, thoughts or work of another as your own, or by allowing your work to be used by someone else in this same fashion. The student should read and be familiar with the Responsible Writing presentation as he/she will be held responsible for knowing and practicing this information. A report that has been plagiarized (in one sentence, in part, or in whole) will receive either a grade of F (0) for the course.

6. DISABILITY
If you have a disability and will be requiring assistance, please contact the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building Suite 101) to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

University of Nevada, Reno
Thompson Bldg. Suite 101, MS/079
Contact: Mary Zabel, Director

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E-mail:drc@scs.unr.edu
Website: [http://www.unr.edu/stsv/slservices/drc/](http://www.unr.edu/stsv/slservices/drc/)