Senior Research Contract

I. General

Student name: _____ Expected Graduation: _____

Major/Minor: _____

Faculty Mentor: _____

II. Communication Plan

1. How will the student and mentor communicate? (*Scheduled and/or unscheduled emails, telephone, meetings, etc*.)

2. How many times will student and mentor meet over the course of the semester/year? When will these meetings take place? (*After each milestone, specific dates, every two weeks, etc*.)

3. Where will meetings take place?

4. What are the student's responsibilities for the meetings?

5. What happens if the student misses a meeting?

6. What are the mentor's communication expectations for the student?

7. How can the mentor help the student achieve the best results?

III. Initial Requirements

1. Will the student receive monetary compensation or credit for the research? Are there steps that must be taken prior to starting? (Employment verification, registration for course, etc.)

2. What sources should the student obtain/read/review prior to the first meeting?

3. What written materials should the student produce prior to the first meeting?

IV. Methodology

1. What research methods and tools will the student use in this project?

2. What resources are available for the student to gain experience with these methods and tools?

V. Training, Permissions, and Access

1. Is the student required to complete any training prior to beginning research?
        _____YES   _____NO

2. If yes, check which apply:
        _____General Lab Safety
        _____Specific Training Requirements (List below.)

3. Are the research activities high or low risk?
        _____HIGH   _____LOW

4. Does the student require access to labs after hours or on weekends?
        _____YES   _____NO

5. Does the research involve human subjects?
        _____YES   _____NO

6. IRB submitted? _____Approved?_____
                          Date   Date

VI. Pre Assessment

1. Rate the student's starting familiarity with scholarly research in this field. (*1=not at all experienced, 10=very experienced*) _____

2. Rate the student's starting familiarity with scholarly writing in this field. (*1=not at all experienced, 10=very experienced*) _____

3. Rate the student's starting familiarity with scholarly presentation (*oral, visual, etc.*) in this field. (*1=not at all experienced, 10=very experienced*) _____

Comments:

VII. Research Milestones
Identify several tasks that the student should accomplish leading up to the final senior research project and presentation. Dates should align with course syllabus.

Example milestones:
- *Read, annotate, and summarize primary text(s).*
- *Identify 6+ sources in an annotated bibliography.*
- *Conduct experiment or survey.*
- *Write a draft of 10 pages that includes a working thesis, some research, and some close reading.*
- *Write a 75-word working abstract of the project.*
- *Submit full draft to peer reviewer and/or faculty mentor for feedback.*
- *Revise full draft and submit to faculty mentor.*

Milestone 1: _____
Target completion date: _____
Date and initial when completed. Student:_____Mentor: _____
Comments:

Milestone 2: _____
Target completion date: _____
Date and initial when completed. Student:_____Mentor: _____
Comments:

Milestone 3: _____
Target completion date: _____
Date and initial when completed. Student:_____Mentor: _____
Comments:

Milestone 4: _____
Target completion date: _____
Date and initial when completed. Student:_____Mentor: _____
Comments:

Milestone 5: _____
Target completion date: _____
Date and initial when completed. Student:_____Mentor: _____
Comments:

VIII. Student Outcomes
Identify several outcomes (relating to skills, knowledge, professional development, etc.) that the student should develop in this research project. Consider the following questions:
- *What does the student hope to gain from the senior research experience?*
- *What does the mentor hope the student will gain from the experience?*

Example outcomes:
- *Student can identify strong scholarly sources from library databases.*
- *Student can design and conduct a labora.*
- *Student will write a paper that can be adapted into a writing sample for graduate school applications.*
- *Student can present ideas clearly and effectively in a public forum.*

Outcome 1: _____
Comments:

Outcome 2: _____
Comments:

Outcome 3: _____
Comments:

Outcome 4: _____
Comments:

IX. Post Assessment (to be completed at the end of the project)

1. Rate the student's ending familiarity with scholarly research in this field. (*1=not at all experienced, 10=very experienced*) _____

2. Rate the student's ending familiarity with scholarly writing in this field. (*1=not at all experienced, 10=very experienced*) _____

3. Rate the student's ending familiarity with scholarly presentation (*oral, visual, etc*.) in this field. (*1=not at all experienced, 10=very experienced*) _____

Comments:

X. Signatures

Student: _____ Date: _____

Mentor: _____ Date: _____

Course instructor: _____ Date: _____

XI. Notes