

Independent Study Proposal

Student Name: **Maya Dayal**

Title of Independent Study: **Poverty in India - Interviews and Intervention**

The independent study will take place: **Winter intensive** (January 3 - January 20, 2017)

Independent Study Sponsor:

Name: Jack Healey
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1. In two to three sentences describe the primary purpose and central activity of your independent study.

I will take the experiences from my Poverty Immersion (this past January in Uganda/Rwanda) one step further and conduct video interviews with people in poverty (get their stories). I will also visit NGOs in India and meet with people who are taking steps to help those in poverty situations (orphans, uneducated or abused women, etc.)

My independent study will focus on ...

- meeting with and profiling a people across India who live in poverty
- visiting NGOs and seeing how they are working to alleviate conditions associated with poverty

2. Explain in a paragraph your previous experience with the topic of the independent study and why you are drawn to this particular opportunity.

I have traveled to many countries in the world and seen many people who live in extremely low-income situations. In January 2016, I participated in a Poverty Immersion Independent Study in Uganda/Rwanda — and I presented my solutions to alleviating problems in those countries upon my return. Interviewing people puts a face on the issues, and seeing how assistance is being offered to them gives me hope that they will one day have a better life.

3. Please describe your learning goals in SMART goal format. In order to earn departmental credit for an independent study, the SMART goals must directly reference the transfer goals for the designated department. Departmental transfer goals are noted in the course catalog. Your advisor, a teacher in the department, and the independent study coordinator can help you set appropriate goals.

I am seeking credit in the following department: none (general, elective credit)

A SMART goal format is one way to test whether or not your goals are prepared to do what goals are supposed to do, inspire you to stretch and accomplish new things while providing a focus and path forward. If your goal(s) includes all the elements of the SMART acronym, then you have a well-written, SMART goal. Is your goal **S**pecific? **M**measurable? **A**ttainable? **R**esults-oriented? **T**imebound?

S - My goal is to “humanize” the concept of poverty via one-on-one interviews. I would also like to show how NGOs are helping alleviate different types of people in poverty conditions.

M - I will be keeping an online blog every day of my interactions and experiences.

A - I will better understand factors that lead into (and out of) poverty.

R – My focus will be to give others a better understanding of factors that lead into (and out of) poverty. I would like people to remember people and faces and stories, instead of having a vague concept of the word “poverty”.

T – My experiences will be within the three-week Winter Intensive period.

4. In a paragraph or detailed list, please identify the types of experiences or activities that you will have or do that will help you reach your learning goals. Please discuss with your sponsor what these experiences might be.

I will conduct video interviews with people in poverty (get their stories). I will also visit NGOs in India and meet with people who are taking steps to help those in poverty situations (orphans, uneducated or abused women, etc.)

5. In a paragraph, expand on the results oriented aspect of your SMART goals. How will you demonstrate, or measure, what you have learned? Yet, another way to phrase this question is what will be assessed and used to assign a grade to your independent study? Please discuss with your sponsor to see what suggestions he or she might have.

I will make connections between factors that lead to poverty and actual people in poverty.

I will present my reflections online through my daily blog; I will present what I have learned from this intensive on my tri-board for the end-of-semester Intensive Fair.

6. A goal of the independent study program is to offer students an opportunity to pursue their interests and passions on their way to becoming a Maumee Valley graduate. MV has a specific mission and a corresponding description of our graduates, the Portrait of a Maumee Valley graduate (see below). Please explain in a paragraph how achieving your learning goals will help you continue to grow into an MV graduate.

Portrait of an MV Graduate

Mission		MV graduates are...
Enlightened	•	Scholarly
	•	Digitally literate
	•	Resilient
Compassionate	•	Selfaware
	•	Empathetic
	•	Ethical
Contributing citizen of	•	Globally Aware
our global community	•	Crossculturally literate
	•	Innovative
	•	Collaborative leaders

Prepared for Best Opportunities in Higher Education

Based upon what I have learned during this intensive, I will produce an online daily blog outlining my experiences and reflections and a tri-board for the Intensive Fair.

7. Be specific and explain what resources you will need to prepare for and complete your independent study. Please ask your sponsor for suggestions. Are there books, articles, web pages to read? Are there skills to practice or special equipment or clothing to gather?

I will read Mr. Healey’s book, Create Your Future: A Memoir by John G. (Jack) Healey. Mr. Healey is my mentor, and he has inspired many famous people to tour the world and raise consciousness about human rights.

8. Describe a typical day or week schedule during your independent study.

January 4 - 7 Arrive in Mumbai, tour Mumbai

- Visit dhobi ghat

(gigantic open-air laundry; workers born into this caste and cannot rise above this station)

- Visit Dharavi slum

(largest slum in Asia; ~1,000,000 people; many small scale industries ... and an economy worth an estimated US \$500 million)

January 8 - 11 Fly to Delhi, tour Delhi

- Visit Sanjay Colony slum

(small slum with small scale businesses; has “positive energy and strong community”)

- Visit Reality Gives NGO

(supports local NGOs and Sanjay Colony people)

- Visit Breakthrough Organization NGO

(Working to make violence and discrimination against women and girls unacceptable.)

January 12 - 13 Fly to Varanasi

- Tour Ganges (holy river) and temples

(Many Hindus believe that dying in Varanasi brings salvation/nirvana. People pray and purify themselves here, cremate corpses in plain view, and often bodies float by on the river.)

- Visit the different ghats

(Some ghats are “reserved” for laundry or worshipping, Assi Ghat is for bathing, Manikarnika Ghat is for cremation, Tulsi Ghat is believed to get rid of leprosy.)

- Witness prayer ceremonies (Ganga Aarti, a prayer ceremony)

- Interview pilgrims on Ganges / Malviya Bridge

(Malviya Bridge is the “end” of the inner holy area of Varanasi, therefore “if one dies here, he will reach eternity immediately”. Therefore, many homeless people live under this bridge.)

January 14 Fly to Agra

- Tour Taj Mahal (a UNESCO World Heritage site)

- Visit Sheroes Hangout NGO (Stop Acid Attacks)

(Empowers women who have survived acid attacks and chemical burns)

January 15 - 16 Drive to Jaipur (5 hours!)

- Visit Dera Amer elephant camp (interview workers and villagers)

- Tour Jaipur (if time allows and we are not exhausted!)

January 17 - 19 Drive to New Delhi (5 hours!), overnight flight to United States

9. If your project requires travel away from home, what is your travel schedule and with whom and where will you live?

I will fly to India with my mother; we will fly/drive between the various states. I will be staying in hotels during my time in India.