

LONGMEADOW HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT STUDY

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Students may seek approval for credit granting study in areas of unique interest that are not adequately reflected in regular courses. While every effort is made to assist students in establishing the desired independent study, students are not guaranteed independent study approvals.

- Courses offered by LHS cannot be taken as an Independent study unless it is determined that over the course of the student's LHS enrollment, there is no possibility of taking the regular class, due to schedule conflicts that cannot be resolved (*as determined by the guidance counselor*).
- Independent studies are supervised by LHS faculty members or qualified administrators. Such supervision is done in addition to the standard contract workload. LHS personnel are neither expected nor required to agree to such supervision. At the discretion of the principal, a student may be granted special permission to take coursework outside of LHS supervision under the Independent Study option.
- Required approvals for Independent study
 - Supervising teacher (required for all IS contracts)
 - Department chair (required for all IS contracts)
 - Parent (required for all IS contracts)
 - Guidance counselor (required for all IS contracts)

- Contract forms are available in the Guidance Department. Fully completed and approved forms must be submitted by the 15th day of the quarter in which credit is being granted.
- Independent study may be available to students on either a graded or pass/fail basis for a maximum of 1.25 credits per quarter.
- The independent study option may replace one of the required six major courses in which LHS students are expected to enroll each year.
- An independent study is a contract and is the equivalent of a course. Students who enter into an independent study contract are expected to complete all agreed upon projects, research and other work. Students who are approved for independent studies are expected to observe all attendance and academic regulations. Additionally, those approved for independent study are expected to be highly motivated and able to work with minimal direct supervision.

Longmeadow High School – Independent Study Contract

Please print

1. Student: _____ ID#: _____
2. Expected year of graduation: _____ Homeroom #: _____
3. Faculty Advisor: Mr. Keller _____ Department: Science
4. Project Title: Ethics _____

SCHEDULE

Circle the blocks and days involved with the Independent Study

- I. Block: A B C D E F G H
- II. Day: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
- III. LHS Room # 222

GRADING

- I. X Graded (A-F) ___ Pass/Fail (P or F)
- II. Credits per quarter: ___ Q1 ___ Q2 1.25 Q3 1.25 Q4

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

1. **STUDENT:** I accept and understand the conditions of this contract and the expectations associated with independent learning.
Signature _____ Date _____
2. **PARENT:** I give permission for my child to pursue this contract.
Signature _____ Date _____
3. **FACULTY ADVISOR:** I agree to supervise the student and that this contract constitutes an educationally sound program. I agree to monitor and evaluate the student's performance according to the criteria outlined in the learning contract.
Signature _____ Date _____
4. **DEPARTMENT CHAIR:** I have reviewed this contract and certify that it is an appropriate alternative for credit in my department.
Signature _____ Date _____
5. **COUNSELOR:** This contract is consistent with the requirements of LHS and the student's course of study.
Signature _____ Date _____

Longmeadow High School – Independent Study Contract

Project Title Ethics

Faculty Advisor Mr. Keller

Start date: _____ **Completion date:** _____

Describe the project in detail. Be specific as to goals, objectives, research and learning outcomes.

Summarize the project

Students will read a variety of texts concerning ethics and the relationship between ethics and science. Students will then answer a series of related questions with an extended essay, generally between 500 and 1000 words.

Learning goals and objectives: (Rationale for project and knowledge and/or skills that you seek to develop)

The goals are to introduce students to some of the fundamental questions which the subject of ethics addresses and to demonstrate how some of these questions are, at least in part, answered through scientific understanding.

Project Outline: Summarize the subject matter to be covered, and outline how you propose to cover it. A vague outline is not sufficient. Attach a detailed outline of your project if the space below is not sufficient.

The subject is roughly divided into two units: The first introduces the conception of utilitarian ethics and addresses a variety of contemporary issues within that framework. The second suggests the possibility of an evolutionary explanation for our sense of ethics and morality. Every five days, students will read a text on a particular topic and write an extended essay answering several questions related to that text.

Learning activities: Describe what the student will do to meet course objectives

Most of the learning will occur in the reading of the texts and through the writing process in answering the related questions. Students will also be able to read the responses of others as all responses will be posted anonymously on the class website.

Materials/texts/resources to be used in the project

Readings will be taken mainly from the following texts:

Practical Ethics, Peter Singer

An Introduction to Evolutionary Ethics, Scott M. James

Evaluation criteria: How will the grade be determined?

Each student response to a question set will be evaluated on a scale from 1 to 10, depending upon the extent to which the questions are thoroughly addressed, the clarity of the response, and the depth of the response. The course grade will be a simple averaging of all assignment grades.