**Plan of Study for (Insert Name Here)**

I have always had an interest in the relationship between our ideas of morality and our economic circumstances. Contrary to prevailing academic thought, I suspect that our economic conditions, as found codified in our notions of social class, play a much larger role in determining our ideological and metaphysical assumptions than is usually deemed the case. The consequences of this phenomenon are that people seem to possess ideas of morality and social justice that are directly in conflict with their own interests. In short, I believe that the general system of ideas in our culture serve to legitimize the power of the ruling classes and cause lower classes to acquiesce to the prevailing class structure, making them unwilling to revolt. An examination of our cultural ideas and ideals, and how they perform the labor of oppression through continual interpellation, is an important theoretical topic as well as a pertinent method to develop strategies to resist the will of the economic and political elite.

My dissertation will cover the general conceptions of the workings of ideology and cultural critique, focusing in particular on continental thought, although at this time there is latitude as to the exact manifestation of this. The areas of communication research most relevant to these topics appear to be critical and cultural studies, as well as organizational communication. In order to provide myself with the proper methodological background and skill sets, I will register in courses on critical methods, rhetorical criticism, ethnography, and semiotics. The combination of on-site studies of workers conditions, cultural text of dominant ideology, and the basic operation of cultural metaphors will aid me in discovering the condition of alienation and oppression through systematic analysis of communication-based phenomena.

**Major Area:** Critical and Cultural Studies

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course | Semester | Credit Hours | Professor | Grade |
| SPC 7933: Postmodern Rhetoric\* | Spring 2015 | 3 | Payne | A |
| COM 7930: Culture and Critique | Fall 2014 | 3 | Durham | A |
| SPC 7933: Kenneth Burke Seminar\* | Spring 2014 | 3 | Payne | A |
| COM 6345: Contemporary Cultural Studies | Fall 2014 | 3 | Dubrofsky | A |
| PHM 6105: Seminar in Social Philosophy # | Fall 2015 | 3 | Ariew | A |
| PHI 6305: Seminar in Epistemology # | Spring 2015 | 3 | Kukla | A |
| SPC 6903: Directed Reading  (Continental Theory) | Summer 2014 | 3 | Khan | A |

**Minor Area:** Organizational Communication

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course | Semester | Credit Hours | Professor | Grade |
| Com 6121: Organizational Communication | Spring 2015 | 3 | Jorgenson | A |
| Com 7933: Communication and Identity\* | Fall 2014 | 3 | Berry | A |
| Com 7933: Communicating Structures\* | Spring 2015 | 3 | Pettegrew | A |
| Com 6418: Communication and  Systems Practice | Spring 2016 | 3 | Steier | A |
| COM 6045: Communicating Leadership | Fall 2016 | 3 | Pal | A |

**Methodology:** Critical Methods

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course | Semester | Credit Hours | Professor | Grade |
| COM 7325: Critical Methods | Spring 2015 |  | Dubrofsky | A |
| SPC 6682: Rhetorical Criticism | Fall 2014 |  | Payne | A |
| SPC 6214: Ethnography of Communication | Spring 2014 |  | Noy | A |
| COM 7933: Semiotics\* | Fall 2009 |  | Butchart | A |

**Other Coursework**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course | Semester | Credit Hours | Professor | Grade |
| COM 6001: Intro to Graduate Studies | Fall 2015 | 3 | Payne  Steier | A |
| COM 7325: Writing Workshop | Summer 2016 | 3 | Bartesaghi | A |

\*Fills PhD requirement

#Fills Outside of Department Requirement

**Total Hours: 54**

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Major Professor Date

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Committee Member Date

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Committee Member Date

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Graduate Director Date