Course title: Directed Independent Research
Course code: INDR 3901 RASP
Programs offering course: Russian Area Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description
Directed Independent Research is for qualified students who have demonstrated academic rigor and curiosity towards a particular research topic. Independent research topics will be approved by the CIEE Academic Coordinator and the home institution advisor, and must reflect a topic that is relevant to the location of studies. To be accepted into this course, students must submit a structured proposal with topic of exploration, significance of research topic as it relates to the local culture, methodology, a literature review, and a schedule of research milestones. Upon research completion, students will present their findings to a panel of academics.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:
- articulate a clear research question or problem and formulate a hypothesis
- identify and demonstrate appropriate research methodologies and know when to use them;
- acquire skills to navigate relevant sources in library and archives, to search for existing body of research relevant to their topic;
- examine the existing body of research relevant to their topic and explain how their project contribute to it;
- identify and practice research ethics and responsible conduct in research

Course Prerequisites
None

Methods of Instruction
Students will meet with faculty advisors frequently, the total of these meetings comprising approximately 20 hours. This will ensure academic integrity and direction throughout the research process. Additionally, students will conduct approximately 100 independent research hours. Students may choose to do field research through service learning, depending on the topic of research and the availability of a local establishment to accommodate such learning.

Assessment and Final Grade
1. Faculty Advisor Meetings 20%
2. Research Paper 40%
3. Annotated Bibliography 10%
4. Final Presentation 20%
5. Research Field Notes 10%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Faculty Advisor Meetings
During the meetings, students receive feedback and advisement on their projects. Students will collaborate with faculty to schedule appropriate meeting times. To structure projects, a research schedule with project milestones will be outlined at the first meeting.

Research Paper
Students will conclude the term with a research paper that evidences their proposed project. In addition, the paper will include a literature review, a methodology and suggestions for future research. Exact scope and scale of the paper will be agreed to by student and faculty mentor.

**Annotated Bibliography**

**Final Presentation**

Students will present their findings in a presentation. Each presentation will address the main question or impetus for the project, milestones and final results. A panel of academics will provide feedback.

**Research Field Notes**

To better organize, each student will keep a well-documented journal of their notes and findings. This will be submitted to faculty advisors and will be graded on organization and progress of research.

**Attendance**

Attendance is crucial for successful completion of the class. Students are allowed to have two unexcused absences for each course for the whole semester program. These allowed unexcused absences should be used for situations such as minor illnesses without a doctor’s note or personal situations that prevent the student from attending the class. Allowed unexcused absences should not be used in a planned way for travel or other activities. Unexcused absences beyond the limit of two will lower a student’s grade by 2 points on the 100-point scale each. For example, if your overall score in the class is 90 (an equivalent of A-) and you have had three unexcused absences, your final score will be 88 (B+).

*N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.*

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: Submit Research Proposal

**Week 2**

Class: Take CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative)

**Week 3**

Class: Submit Annotated Bibliography

**Week 4**

Class: Discuss Research Methodology and Note-taking Techniques

**Week 5**

Class: Weekly Critical Questions

**Week 6**

Class: Discuss Field Notes and Research Status

**Week 7**

Class: Weekly Critical Questions

**Week 8**

Class: Discuss Field Notes and Research Status

**Week 9**

Class: Weekly Critical Questions

**Week 10**
Week 11  
Class: Discuss Field Notes

Week 12  
Class: Discuss Findings

Week 13  
Class: Discuss Academic Presentation Techniques

Week 14  
Class: Final Presentation

Course Materials
Readings
Materials will be determined in conversation between student and faculty member. During the first week, the student will propose an initial list of materials to investigate; faculty mentor will amend and approve. Readings will further develop throughout the term.