CIEE Legon, Ghana

Course title: Directed Independent Research
Course code: INDR 3003 ACGH
Programs offering course: Arts and Sciences
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2022

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:

- Conduct ethical research.
- Analyze primary and secondary source materials.
- Extrapolate relevant content.
- Make contributions to current research and exchange ideas with professionals in prospective fields.
- Develop a scholarly research paper with a defensible argument, supported by evidence and accurate citations.
- Suggest additional research to be conducted in prospective fields.

Course Prerequisites
For research proposals involving human subjects, CIEE prohibits all intervention-based research, but will potentially support survey, visual imagery, or interview-based human subject research proposals (i.e. indirect research methods) based on the outlined academic requirements in this syllabus, as well as successful and timely completion of the administrative tasks below:

- Student submits a complete research proposal, using the CIEE Independent Research Proposal form, but the stated deadline. The form and relevant instructions will be available in the student’s CIEE online account during the Course Selection process.
- CIEE Center Director reviews the student’s submitted research plan to ensure the appropriate academic support and resources can be arranged for the research being proposed, and the proposed research methods can be employed respecting local norms, laws, and ethical and cultural expectations.
- Prior to commencing data collection, the student must:
  - Provide CIEE documentation of approval from home school IRB committee, following approval from CIEE Center Director and prior to commencing research on site. Students are strongly encouraged to begin the home school IRB process as soon as possible, even in advance of the CIEE review/approval decision.
  - Complete the CITI’s Student Researcher Course, a 1 - 2 hour online training related to a number of topics, including human subject protections, research ethics and international research considerations. Go to: https://www.citiprogram.org, to register, select CIEE as an Organizational Affiliation, and complete the course. Students will need to submit the Course Completion Report to CIEE before beginning your research.

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. This research might include studying primary
and secondary sources, different types of textual analysis, interview with experts and other research activities.

**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**

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor’s note from a local medical professional is provided
- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking
unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.

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
Class: Discuss field notes

Week 11
Class: Discuss findings

Week 12
Class: Discuss academic presentation techniques

Week 13
Class: Final Presentation

Week 14
Class: Submit Final Paper

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.