



CIEE Taipei, Taiwan

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| Course title: | Directed Independent Research |
| Course code: | INDR 3001 CTAI |
| Programs offering course: | Communications, Business and Political Economy, Intensive Chinese Language and Culture |
| Language of instruction: | English |
| U.S. semester credits: | 3 |
| Contact hours: | 120 |
| Term: | Spring 2020 |

Course Description

Academic year students may undertake an independent study during the second semester in the program. Students must submit a clear statement of purpose, which should include their research proposal, a list of resources, a tentative outline of the final project, and a suggested schedule of progress. Students work with faculty and local experts in an appropriate field of study. A student enrolled in a Directed Independent Research project will interact with two key players while he or she is abroad: a) The Independent Research Supervisor (in some cases, this may be the CIEE Resident Director); b) The Academic Advisor abroad. Following meetings at the Study Center with the Independent Research Supervisor and the Academic Advisor, the student must submit the following information: • Academic subject area(s) • Working title of independent research project • Specific learning goals • Methodology to be used • Literature review (initial list of resources) Students choosing to conduct and carry out individual and directed independent research will be asked to comply with the following requirements once they are on-site at the program location: 1) Students are required to complete an on-line training program, The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) before starting the research project. CIEE has identified several modules concerning research and ethics that students conducting independent research are required to complete. See <https://www.citiprogram.org> 2) Students must submit a resumé with academic, professional, volunteer or relevant experience for conducting research in desired specific academic discipline. 3) Students will complete an Independent Research Learning Contract on-site that clearly identifies the student's academic responsibilities, including the specific learning goals and the specific means by which the independent research will be assessed. The Directed Independent Research Supervisor (in some cases, this may be the CIEE Resident Director) and the on-site Academic Advisor work together to support students in completing their independent research while abroad. The Directed Independent Research Supervisor is responsible for assuring that a student has completed all requirements for credit. The Academic Advisor will assess students by grading their success in completing a series of specific assignments throughout the semester.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

General Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will be able to:

Conduct ethical research

- Analyze primary and secondary source materials
- Extrapolate relevant content



- Make contributions to current research
- 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

Specific Learning Objectives

These objectives need to be determined by the student, included in the proposal, and approved by the home institution advisor, and the local appointed professor.

In order to provide preliminary information regarding the research topic and academic subject area, the student must indicate on their pre-departure course registration form that they wish to enroll in directed independent research, and they need to complete the following within two weeks of receipt of this document.

Course Prerequisites

No language prerequisite as this course is taught in English. Students need to prepare a proposal prior to arrival into the program, which has to be approved by the home school and the CIEE program. A professor will be assigned depending on the topic of the research. The project must fit clearly into the range of activities that are commonly called “research” in the chosen discipline. Thus, reflections, essays, journals, etc., are not classifiable as “research” papers.

Methods of Instruction

Students must attend 10-12 hours of meetings regularly and arrive prepared to participate actively in the discussion. In order to do so, they must follow the reading guideline that will be handed in to them related to the content of the course.

The Faculty Advisor will work with the students to ensure they have the necessary preparation to be able to conduct the research in question. For example, the student may have done similar research in the past or taken a course in research methodology; or, teaching the student how to do the research may explicitly be built into the project as a preliminary learning activity.

In a regular course, three semester hours of credit implies 45 contact hours and a total of 135 hours of work, including both class time and work done by the student outside of class. For a three-credit project, the definition of the project and the associated workload should be such that the student is likely to devote approximately the same time and effort to it that he or she would devote to a normal three-credit course.

120 work hours of research

10-12 hours of personal meetings with the faculty adviser, and final presentation

Assessment and Final Grade

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| 1. Advisor Meetings | 15% |
| 2. Research Paper | 40% |
| 3. Research Field Notes & Journal | 15% |
| 4. Annotated Bibliography | 10% |
| 5. Final Presentation | 20% |
| TOTAL | 100% |



Course Requirements

Advisor Meetings

Students will meet with faculty advisors frequently a total of 15 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. 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. The word limit for this paper must be between 4,000 and 6,000 words, but the exact scope and scale will be agreed to by student and faculty mentor.

Research Field Notes & Journal

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.

Students will present their findings in a presentation of 15 minutes, excluding questions. Each presentation will address the main question or impetus for the project, milestones and final results. A panel of academics will provide feedback.

Annotated Bibliography

The annotated bibliography must be between 750 and 1600 words.

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.

Process

Following meetings at the Study Center with the on-site Independent Research Supervisor and the Academic Advisor, the student must submit the following information to the Independent Research Supervisor and Academic Advisor that details the proposed independent research topic. This document must be received no later than the end of week 2 following orientation at the Study Center site. It will provide the following information:

- Academic Subject Area(s)
- Working Title of Independent Research Project
- Specific Learning Goals
- Methodology to be used
- Literature Review (initial list of resources)



Following receipt of this document, the Academic Advisor will meet again with the student to identify a timeline with which the student will comply in completing all learning activities associated with the independent research. The schedule will take into account these activities, at a minimum:

- Completion of Reading
- Narrowing of Research Topic
- Completion of Literature Review
- Completion of Student-written Research plan (to be approved by Academic Advisor)
- Individual meetings between academic advisor and student for questions and guidance
- Submission of outline drafts, final outline, draft papers, final paper

The Academic Advisor will assess students by issuing a final grade based on the student's success in completing a series of specific assignments throughout the semester, including drafts of the outline and final paper (20-25 pages), a journal in which the student is required to make substantive entries about his or her weekly progress and ten to twelve one-hour meetings with the Academic Advisor.

Requirements for the written project:

- The project should be at least 20 pages long.
- The format will be Arial 12, Space 1.5.
- Pictures and images can be included, but do not count as the required 20 pages.
- Pages should be numbered.

The project will include:

- Head page (first and last name, course, date and topic dealt with).
- Index.
- The written project.
- Personal opinion.
- Reason to choose this topic.
- Bibliography.

Attendance

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class .

Discussion of the proposal & bibliography

Introduction to the research methodology

Week 2

Class .

Present Research Proposal Planning

Finalize annotated Bibliography proposal

CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative)



Weekly Critical Question

Week 3

Class .

Components of the research

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 4

Class .

Research Milestones

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 5

Class .

Methodology and Literature

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 6

Class .

Research Status

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 7

Class .

Q&A

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 8

Class .



What are the conclusions so far? What's next?

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 9

Class .

Reviewing the materials

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 10

Class .

Missing pieces

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 11

Class .

Findings

Field Notes

Weekly Critical Question

Week 12

Class .

Final Presentation

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.