Course title: Independent Research  
Course code: INDR 3993 CSCS  
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts, Business and Society, Communications, New Media and Journalism English, Communications, New Media and Journalism Spanish, Liberal Arts  
Language of instruction: Spanish  
U.S. semester credits: 3.00  
Contact hours: 45.00  
Term: Spring 2021

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 CIEE Seville Director and home institution and must reflect a topic that is relevant to Seville or Spain. To be accepted into this course, students must submit a structured proposal with topic of exploration, significance of research topic as it relates to Seville/Spain, 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 in areas of great academic and human relevance, with a specific focus on contemporary issues.
- Analyze primary and secondary source materials, managing to extrapolate relevant content from them.
- Make contributions to current research within the framework outlined in a thorough proposal and following the adequate guidance of the tutor of the research project.
- Exchange ideas with professionals in the field outlined in the research project.
- Develop a scholarly research paper with a defensible argument, supported by evidence and accurate citations.
- Suggest additional research to be conducted in the same or a similar field.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

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.

Assessment and Final Grade

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Advisor Meetings</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Field Notes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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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. The word limit for this paper must be between 3000 and 6000 words, but the exact scope and scale will be agreed to by student and faculty mentor.

**Annotated Bibliography**

The annotated bibliography must be between 750 and 1600 words.

**Final Presentation**

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.

**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**

Students are not allowed to miss class for unjustified reasons. For each unexcused absence, the participation portion of the grade will be lowered. Hence, it will be very difficult to receive a 100 in the class. Please keep this in mind. If a student misses class twice without a valid excuse (a note from a physician in the event of an illness), then the professor will automatically lower the final grade by 5 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 6 or more absences will fail the course.

Students should arrive to class on time. Arriving more than 15 minutes late for a class will count as an unexcused absence. Please note that an excused absence is one that is accompanied by a doctor’s note: signed stamped and dated. Travelling and/or travel delays are not considered valid reasons for missing class.

*Notes from a physician will only be valid and admitted by the Program Manager if the doctor confirms that the visit could not have been arranged at another time, or that the student was too ill to attend class that day.*

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

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography

CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative)

Components

Weekly Critical Question

**Week 2**

Class: Research Milestones

Field Notes

**Week 3**

Class: Methodology and Literature I

Field Notes
Weekly Critical Question

**Week 4**
Class: Methodology and Literature II
Field Notes
Weekly Critical Question

**Week 5**
Class: Methodology and Literature III
Field Notes
Weekly Critical Question

**Week 6**
Class: Field Notes
Weekly Critical Question

**Week 7**
Class: Research Status I
Weekly Critical Question

**Week 8**
Class: Research Status II
Weekly Critical Question

**Week 9**
Class: Research Status III
Weekly Critical Question

**Week 10**
Class: Findings I

**Week 11**
Class: Findings II
Final Presentation
Submit Final Paper

**Week 12**
Class: Outcomes Discussion – Self-evaluation
Possibilities for future research

**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.