



CIEE Cape Town, South Africa

Course title:	Directed Independent Research
Course code:	INDR 3003 CTSA
Programs offering course:	Arts and Sciences
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3.00
Contact hours:	45.00
Term:	Fall 2023

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 Resident Director and home institution and must reflect a topic that is relevant to Cape Town or South Africa. To be accepted into this course, students must submit a structured proposal that clearly state the topic of exploration, the student's rationale and motivation behind choosing the topic, its significance as it relates to Cape Town/South Africa, methodology, a literature review, and a schedule of research milestones. Students complete a total of 100-120 hours of research and meet regularly with an advisor to complete an academically rigorous, ethically sound, and culturally appropriate research project and final research paper. Upon research completion, students will present their findings to a panel of academics.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Conduct thorough archival research and extract relevant findings from a diversity of sources.
- Analyze primary and secondary source materials.
- Suggest and extrapolate further contributions to ethical research of the chosen topic.
- Develop a scholarly research paper with a defensible argument, supported by evidence and accurate citations.

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 for a total of 15 hours (weekly for 60-90 minutes or bi-weekly for 3 hour

Students will meet with faculty advisors for a total of 15 hours (weekly for 60-90 minutes or bi-weekly for 3-hour sessions). 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

1.	Journal	10%
2.	Advisor Meetings	20%
2.	Clean Draft of Final Outline	10%
4.	Clean Draft of Final Paper	10%
5.	Final Presentation	20%
6.	Final Paper	30%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Journal

You are required to keep a journal throughout the course of the semester in which you make substantive entries about your weekly progress. You will be expected to submit the journal twice during the semester (at the end of week 2 and at the end of week 6).

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.

Clean Draft of Final Outline

In Week 7 you will submit a draft of your outline for your final paper. This draft will be no less than 3 and no more than 5 pages long and will provide breakdown of each section of your paper, including a brief description of each section. You will also include your final research question and your main findings in this outline.

Clean Draft of Final Paper

In Week 9 you will submit a clean draft of your final paper. Incorporating the feedback received from your final outline, this paper will essentially be a first draft of your final paper and as such it will include an introduction which lays out your research question and how you arrived at it, a literature review, a methodology section, a discussion on your findings and a conclusion which includes suggestions for future research.

Final Presentation

In Week 11 you will present your research to a panel of academics. Your presentation will be no more than 20 minutes long of which at least 5 minutes must be left for questions. The presentation will follow the same format as your final paper (thus it will contain a section an introduction, a literature review, a methodology section, a discussion on your findings and a conclusion which includes suggestions for future research).

Final Paper

Students will conclude the term with a research paper of between 3000 – 6000 words long and which includes the following sections: an introduction, a literature review, a methodology section, a discussion on your findings and a conclusion that includes suggestions for future research. You will be graded on the quality of your writing, your ability to think analytically and the degree to which you have incorporating the feedback received from the clean draft of your final paper.

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: Do online CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative)

Advisor meeting #1

Week 2

Class: Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography

Advisor meeting #2

Assignment Due: Journal

Week 3

Class: Research Milestones and Field Notes

Advisor meeting #3

Week 4

Class: Methodology and Literature

Advisor meeting #4

Week 5

Class: Findings

Advisor meeting #5

Week 6

Class: Findings

Advisor meeting #6

Assignment Due: Journal

Week 7

Class: Clean Draft of Final Outline

Week 8

Class: Clean Draft of Final Paper

Advisor meeting #7

Week 9

Class: Final Corrections and Presentation Preparation

Advisor meeting #8

Week 10

Class: Final Presentation

Advisor meeting #9

Week 12

Class: Final Paper

Advisor meeting #10

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.