



CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title:	Directed Independent Research
Course code:	INDR 4900 PRAG
Programs offering course:	Business, Arts and Sciences, Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3.00
Contact hours:	45.00
Term:	Fall 2023

Course Description

CIEE supports qualified students who wish to pursue an academically rigorous independent research project while abroad. In order to enroll, students must submit a research proposal including a clearly defined research topic, explanation of research plans, description of preparation in the planned area of study, list of resources, tentative outline of a final paper, and suggested schedule of progress. Each student completes a total of 100-120 hours of research and meets regularly with an advisor to complete an academically rigorous, ethically sound, and culturally appropriate research project and final research paper. Approval for participation in Directed Independent Research must be obtained from CIEE and the student's home institution prior to arrival on the program.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Use critical thinking, literacy, digital literacy and problem-solving skills in the context of conducting research.
- Analyze primary and secondary sources.
- Apply ethical standards and academic integrity in the research.
- Collect and evaluate data gathered through the research project.
- Develop a scholarly research paper with a defensible argument, supported by evidence and accurate citations.
- Defend the research before a panel of experts.
- 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

The student will meet with his/her research advisor regularly, the total of these meetings comprising approximately 15 hours. This will ensure academic integrity and direction throughout the research process. Additionally, the student will conduct approximately 100 independent research hours.

Assessment and Final Grade

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

Course Requirements

Faculty Advisor Meetings

The student will meet with his/her research advisor regularly throughout the semester. The schedule of meetings will be determined based on mutual agreement between the student and the advisor and submitted via the Canvas course page no later than by the end of Week 2. The research schedule and project milestones will be submitted via the Canvas course page by the end of Week 4. During the meetings, the student will present the progress and advances in the field work and research based on the research schedule. The student will submit the first draft of the project and main findings by the end of Week 6.

Research Paper

The student will conclude the term with a research paper (4,000-6,000 words) that evidences the proposed project. The paper will include a literature review, an outline of the methodology used and suggestions for future research. The exact scope of the paper will be determined upon an agreement between the student and his/her research advisor.

Annotated Bibliography

The student will develop and submit an annotated bibliography together with the research proposal. The bibliography will be assessed by the research advisor as to the adequacy in scope and depth for the research.

Final Presentation

The student will present and defend his/her findings before a panel consisting of faculty and experts in the field of research. The presentation will address the main questions for the project, milestones and final results. Following the presentation, the student will answer questions concerning the research project raised by the faculty and experts and defend his/her research findings. The Final Presentation notes or PowerPoint slides are to be submitted via Canvas prior to the Final Presentation, by the end of Week 12.

Field Journal

The student will keep a journal of his/her notes and findings. Journal entries will be submitted to the research advisor via Canvas on a regular basis, at least 5 days before the scheduled student-advisor meeting, 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: .
Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography

Week 2

Class: Research Particulars and Schedule

Submission of the student-advisor meetings schedule by the end of Week 2

Week 3

Class: Research Milestones
Field Notes (to be submitted at least 5 days prior to the student-advisor meeting)

Week 4

Class: Independent Work

Submission of the research schedule and milestones by the end of Week 4

Week 5

Class: Methodology and Literature
Field Notes (to be submitted at least 5 days prior to the student-advisor meeting)

Week 6

Class: Independent Work

Submission of the first draft of the project and main findings by the end of Week 6

Week 7

Class: Discussion of the first draft and main findings

Week 8

Class: Research Status
Field Notes (to be submitted at least 5 days prior to the student-advisor meeting)

Week 9

Class: Independent Work

Week 10

Class: Findings

Possible extra meeting to discuss key components of the Final Paper and Presentation

Week 11

Class: Independent Work on the Final Paper and Presentation

Week 12

Class: Independent Work on the Final Paper and Presentation

Submission of the Final Presentation by the end of week 12

Week 13

Class: Final Presentation and Defense of the Research Project

Submission of the Final Paper by the last day of the Program

Course Materials**Readings**

Readings and other resources will be specified based on a discussion between the student and the advisor. During the first meeting, the student will propose a list of materials to explore and the advisor will comment on it, approve and propose additional readings. The reading list will further develop throughout the semester, reflecting the progress and direction of the research.