



CIEE Seville, Spain

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, International Business and Culture, Liberal Arts
Language of instruction:	Spanish
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 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

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 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

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. 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

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
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.