



CIEE Amman, Jordan

Course title:	Directed Independent Research
Course code:	(GI) INDR 4901 AMJO (ENG)
Programs offering course:	Middle East Studies
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. 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. 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:

- 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

Course Prerequisites

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 research, 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 for a total of 15 hours. This will ensure academic integrity and

Students will meet with faculty advisors frequently for 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, an explanation of the methodology and suggestions for future research. Exact scope and scale of the paper will be agreed to by student and faculty mentor.

Annotated Bibliography

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.

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
Weekly Critical Question

Week 3

Class: Methodology and Literature
Field Notes
Weekly Critical Question

Week 4

Class: Research Status
Weekly Critical Question

Week 5

Class: Findings

Week 6

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; the faculty mentor will amend and approve. Readings will further develop throughout the term.