CIEE Global Institute Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course name: Directed Independent Research
Course number: (GI) INDR 4901 BAAR
Programs offering course: Open Campus
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3/4.5 Quarter Hours
Contact hours: 100 hours (plus faculty advisor meetings 15 hours)
Term: Spring 2019

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
● Conduct ethical research.
● Analyze primary and secondary source materials.
● Extrapolate relevant content.
● Make contributions to current research and 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.

Methods of Instruction
Students will meet with faculty advisors frequently, the total of these meetings comprising approximately 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

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. Each meeting student will discuss with faculty the advances and findings of the fieldwork and research assigned by the agenda.

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. Exact scope and scale of the paper will be agreed to by student and faculty mentor.

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.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Components
Weekly Critical Question

Week 2
Research Milestones Field Notes
Weekly Critical Question

Week 3
Methodology and Literature Field Notes
Weekly Critical Question First draft of the project and main findings will be discussed.

Week 4
Research Status Weekly Critical Question Field Notes

Week 5
Findings During this week, the student can ask the instructor for an extra meeting to discuss or elaborate key components and solve doubts about the research project if this is needed.
Week 6  Final Presentation will be delivered two days before the last week of the program ends. Student will present his/her findings to members of the faculty and other students who are conducting similar research. Open discussion will be facilitated by the Academic Director. Final Paper will be submitted on the last day of the program.

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.