



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	Directed Independent Research
Course number:	INDR 3901 RLPR
Programs offering course:	Russian Language Program
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. semester credits:	3 Semester hours
Contact hours:	45 hours (including faculty advisor meetings 15 hours)
Term:	Spring 2020

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 the CIEE Academic Coordinator and the home institution advisor, and must reflect a topic that is relevant to the location of studies. To be accepted into this course, students must submit a structured proposal with topic of exploration, significance of research topic as it relates to the local culture, 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

At the end of the seminar the student will be able to:

- 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.

Course Prerequisites

None



Methods of Instruction

Students will meet with faculty advisors frequently, the total of these meetings comprising approximately 20 hours. This will ensure academic integrity and direction throughout the research process. Additionally, students will conduct approximately 100 independent research hours. This research might include studying primary and secondary sources, different types of textual analysis, interview with experts and other research activities.

Assessment and Final Grade

Faculty Advisor Meetings	20%
Research Paper	40%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Final Presentation	20%
Research Field Notes	10%

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. 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	Submit Research Proposal
Week 2	Take CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative)
Week 3	Submit Annotated Bibliography
Week 4	Discuss research methodology and note-taking techniques
Week 5	Weekly critical questions
Week 6	Discuss field notes and research status
Week 7	Weekly critical questions
Week 8	Discuss field notes and research status
Week 9	Weekly critical questions
Week 10	Discuss field notes
Week 11	Discuss findings
Week 12	Discuss academic presentation techniques
Week 13	Final Presentation
Week 14	Submit Final Paper

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.