



CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course Name:	Directed Independent Research
Course Number:	INDR 4900 PRAG
Programs offering course:	CES/CNMJ
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	100 hours of independent research, plus 15 hours of meetings with a research advisor
Term:	Spring 2020

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, the student will be able to:

- 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

Research proposal with 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 project must be submitted to the CIEE Prague Academic Director for approval. The student must also secure an approval by his home institution which is to be submitted alongside the research proposal.

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%

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.

Research Field Notes

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.

CIEE Academic Honesty Statement

CIEE subscribes to standard U.S. norms requiring that students exhibit the highest standards regarding academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the program. Standards of honesty and norms governing originality of work differ significantly from country to country. We expect students to adhere to both the American norms and the local norms, and in the case of conflict between the two, the more stringent of the two will preside. Three important principles are considered when defining and demanding academic honesty. These are related to the fundamental tenet that one should not present the work of another person as one's own.

The first principle is that final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from another person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the



professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).

The second principle applies specifically to course work: the same written paper may not be submitted in two classes. Nor may a paper for which you have already received credit at your home institution be submitted to satisfy a paper requirement while studying overseas.

The third principle is that any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with a course. This usually is done when quoting directly from another’s work or including information told to you by another person. The general rule is that if you have to look something up, or if you learned it recently either by reading or hearing something, you have to document it.

Weekly Schedule

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the advisor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Week 1	Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography
Week 2	Research Particulars and Schedule Submission of the student-advisor meetings schedule by the end of Week 2
Week 3	Research Milestones Field Notes (to be submitted at least 5 days prior to the student-advisor meeting)
Week 4	Independent Work Submission of the research schedule and milestones by the end of Week 4
Week 5	Methodology and Literature Field Notes (to be submitted at least 5 days prior to the student-advisor meeting)
Week 6	Independent Work Submission of the first draft of the project and main findings by the end of Week 6



Week 7	Discussion of the first draft and main findings
Week 8	Research Status Field Notes (to be submitted at least 5 days prior to the student-advisor meeting)
Week 9	Independent Work
Week 10	Findings Possible extra meeting to discuss key components of the Final Paper and Presentation
Week 11	Independent Work on the Final Paper and Presentation
Week 12	Independent Work on the Final Paper and Presentation Submission of the Final Presentation by the end of week 12
Week 13	Final Presentation and Defense of the Research Project Submission of the Final Paper by the last day of the Program

Course Materials

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.