

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: International Programmes

Programme: Study Abroad

FHEQ Level: 5

Course title: Independent Study

Course Code: INDP 5700

Student Engagement Hours: 40

Timetabled Hours: 3

Guided Learning Hours: 12

Independent Learning Hours: 25

Credits: 4 UK CATS credits
2 ECTS credits
1 US credits

Course Description:

This intensive independent study course allows junior/5000-level students to engage deeply with a specific topic of interest over a short period of time under the guidance of a faculty member. The course emphasises independent research, critical thinking, and the ability to develop a concise and well-presented/written research paper or project.

Prerequisites:

Completed 40 US Credits

Aims and Objectives:

1. Develop an in-depth understanding of a specific topic of research interest.

2. Enhance transferable research and writing skills, including the ability to present complex arguments in a succinct manner.
3. Promote critical engagement with a range of primary and secondary sources.
4. Produce a concise and well-written research paper/project reflecting original analysis.

Programme Outcomes:

AI, BI, BII, CI, CII, DI, DII

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this Independent Study, the student will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of, and engagement with, the main issues, themes, and debates relating to their chosen topic.
- Demonstrate familiarity with key primary texts.
- Demonstrate an ability to deploy diverse methods for reading, interpreting and assessing source material.
- Present research outcomes in a convincing and accessible manner, demonstrating an adaptability to different contexts, audiences, and levels of complexity.
- Demonstrate an ability to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Complete, with limited supervision, assigned work which is clear and contextualised, shows conceptual and analytical sophistication and the level of critical thinking appropriate for a 5000-level course.

Indicative Content:

Week 1: Initial Meetings

- Discuss and agree the research topic
- Establish a research plan and timeline
- Identify initial readings and resources
- Consider outlet/audience for the topic

Week 2: Follow up

- Meetings to discuss progress, address challenges, and refine research questions
- Submission of annotated bibliography, outline, and draft thesis statement
- Regular feedback from the instructor

Week 3: Final Outcome

- Presentation of research findings
- Submission of first draft
- Tutorial with first round of direct feedback
- Submission of the final research paper/project
- Consideration of possible submission to published outlet.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Suggested model:

Annotated Bibliography, Outline and draft thesis (15%):

Due day 1 of week 2

Submission of a draft section of the research paper/project for feedback (25%).

Due day 1 of week 3

Final Research Paper/Project (60%):

Due end of Week 3.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught primarily through one-to-one tutorials after initial lectures about the aims, scope and intended outcomes of the Independent Study are discussed. Tutorials will be used for discussion and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment.

Indicative Texts:

Texts and resources will be determined based on the chosen topic. Students will compile a brief bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	Nov 2024	
Updated Pre-req	June 2025	