

Directed Research

Santiago, Chile

Suggested US semester credit hours: 6 credits

IFSA-Butler course code: ID403-03

Course length: Semester

Delivery method: Face to face

Language of Instruction: Spanish

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The possibility to study a specific topic related to some of the political, social, cultural, economic or artistic aspects of Chile represents a great challenge but, at the same time, a great opportunity.

It is a challenge because the student will have to leave the comfort of the classroom to immerse in one of the various aspects of Chilean society, such as how people investigate and study in Chile; how people relate to sensitive topics; the challenges that the Chilean bureaucracy represent and, among all, the student will have to interact with other people in Spanish.

It is an opportunity because it allows the student to know the country from a profound perspective, interact with institutions, academics and people that can have an impact in his/her professional future life; develop an academic work that will prepare the student to write his/her thesis, increase his/her intercultural experiences and improve his/her speaking skills in Spanish.

Students in this course come to understand the methodological and theoretical tools that enable them to design a research project. This research project must present a scientific work with descriptive, analytical and comprehensive characteristics that, at the same time, generates valid knowledge which is verifiable, empirically comparable, and theoretically sustainable.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To know and acquire theoretical and methodological bases and tools to develop different kinds of research.
2. To discover and comprehend the issues from the research and find the necessary tools to address those issues.
3. To determine and specify the advantages and disadvantages from the qualitative and quantitative methods, highlighting the importance of complementing those methods to comprehend the studied phenomena.
4. To reflect and establish the differences between an idea or research topic, and a research problem from the theory to the design of coherent and viable research.

5. Design a hypothesis and/or coherent questions regarding the interests of the research and develop the different design stages of a research endeavor.
6. Produce a written document with the results of the directed research, in agreement with the instructions delivered to the student through the semester.

METHODOLOGY

In the first part of the course, the student will present a research draft that will be worked together with the course coordinator through three methodology sessions. During this time, it is expected that the student can determine the best techniques to work with his/her research and develop a possible research question. During the rest of the semester, the student will keep working in the body of his/her research with a tutor professor specially selected according to his/her academic and research qualifications. The student will meet with his/her tutor professor at least once every ten days and, in each session, together they will have to determine the work that they will develop.

At the end of the semester and before the delivery of a hard copy of their research project, the students will participate in a round-table together with their tutor professors.

RESEARCH PROJECT

Contents

1. Formulation of the research problem and questions.
2. Production of the theoretical framework or literature review.
3. Hypothesis, questions and objectives of the research.
4. Methodological aspects of a research: exploratory, descriptive or causal study; qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods.
5. Analysis and interpretation of results.
6. Conclusions.
7. Bibliography and appendix.
8. Incorporate the sources of the documents, either physical or digital material.
9. Respect the citation structure for the physical and digital material sources.
10. Attach graphs and all the elements that you consider necessary in order to deliver a complete project.
11. Adhere to all formatting requirements.
12. Include a table of contents.

Evaluation

The instructor, based on the work developed by the student during the semester, will carry out the evaluation of this course. As reference, a qualitative guideline of evaluation will be presented.

Qualitative guideline of evaluation.

CRITERIA	SCORE
Definition of the research problem.	
Presentation of data, precedents and arguments that contextualize the problem proposal.	
Bibliography articulation of the theoretical framework accordingly to the key concepts defined in the study.	
Clarity of the proposed objectives and correspondence with the problem proposal.	
Appropriateness and viability of the chosen methodological focus.	
Definition and justification of the research population, the sample, the possible techniques and instruments of data collection and how the analysis of information will be carried out.	
General aspects: presentation of all the proper points in the Design of the Research Project. Coherence of the design. Composition and writing quality of the work. Index.	
Final score	

Note: Each item will be independently qualified, ranging from 1 to 7.

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Formal Instructions

1. The written research must have at least 40 pages, without counting the appendix and the bibliography.
2. It must be letter size, margin 2,5 by side. Font: Times New Roman 12, spacing 1.5.
3. Notes and comments must be footnotes, in agreement with the quotation guideline handed over by the instructor.
4. The student must deliver two copies of his/her final paper: an electronic and a paper copy.

TIMELY SUBMISSIONS

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of

academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.