

COURSE SYLLABUS



DIRECTED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Argentine Universities Program, Buenos Aires

US semester credit hours: 6

Contact hours: 84, including fieldwork

Course Code: ID401-12

Course Length: Semester

Delivery method: Face to Face

Language of Instruction: Spanish

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with the theoretical and practical tools required to conduct a research study which, in this particular case, will address Argentine social reality. During the course of the research project, students will focus on a series of topics including framing a working hypothesis, searching for bibliographical material, analyzing primary and secondary sources, fieldwork, evaluating the data collected and presenting the conclusions.

The course involves group classes on methodology, individual weekly classes dedicated exclusively to addressing each student's specific research topic, the supply of information and the contacts required to organize the research work and the field work, corrections and ongoing counseling. Students will be assisted on an individual basis by a Spanish language professor in the correction of the written report of their research.

The directed research concentration is designed individually for each participant, particularly for undergraduate who soon will have to write a thesis or other research paper. The idea is that the students learn and internalize a methodology that enable them to write academic papers, thesis and proposals, according to the needs of each career that will stay with them on their future academic life. "To learn to research by researching".

COURSE DELIVERY

Students will be expected to:

- Attend weekly meetings with the Course Director to discuss the methodological steps that are completed from one week to another and the progress achieved in the fieldwork.
- Submit a weekly report of completed work and discuss next step in the field work.
- Revise and correct written work with the Spanish language professor on an individual basis.
- Submit the final paper when and as required for correction by the Director.
- Submit two copies of the final paper (one by e-mail for a data base).
- Attendance requirements: Students are expected to attend all class sessions and fulfill all course requirements.

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Guidelines for submission of final paper:

Before submitting their papers for evaluation, students will be expected to ensure compliance with the following guidelines:

- The paper should be 25 to 30 pages long, written on A4 paper, Times New Roman 12 point font and double spacing.
- Pages should be numbered.
- Each chapter should begin on a new page.
- Each title in the table of contents must match the title in the text exactly.
- Photographs, graphs and tables should be accompanied by a pertinent caption (title and source).
- The graphs and tables should be in Spanish.
- The paper should be free of Spanish language corrections.
- The list of interviews (if applicable) should include reference to: surname, name and position of respondent and place and date of interview.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Discover, from a methodological point of view, the key elements of the research process.
- Explore the best habits of scientific work: critical sense, clear objectives, strict conceptual design and formulation, the search for empirical referents, a programmed work plan.
- Develop criteria and skills during the research stage and in the preparation and presentation of the written report.
- Become familiar with resources available for further research.
- Make cognitive connections between learning in this course and other learning experiences in the IFSA Argentine Universities Program.

COURSE OUTLINE

Schedule of activities

Week one:

- Selecting a topic
- Written outline of work objectives

Weeks 2-3

- Presenting a research plan (discussed with Director)

Week 8

- Progress report (students should submit in writing 40% of the completed research work and a status report on the remaining 60%).

Week 9

- First partial correction of Spanish language.

Week 15

- First submission of the finished paper for Spanish language correction
- Second submission of the paper for Spanish language correction.

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Week 15

- Submission of final paper to Cristina Lucchini (once the paper has been approved by the Spanish language professor)

Week 16

- Final submission after the paper has been corrected by Cristina Lucchini (2 copies, one by e-mail for data base)

RESOURCES

Recommended readings: related to the research paper of each student.

Bibliography

Selection of:

- Letourneau, Joselyn, *La caja de herramientas del joven investigador. Guía de iniciación al trabajo intelectual*, La carreta editores, Medellín, 2007
- Eco, Umberto, *Cómo se hace una tesis*, Gedisa, Barcelona, 2001
- Wainerman, C. and Sautu, R., *La trastienda de la investigación*, Ediciones Lumiere, Bs. As., 2000.

EVALUATION METHODS

Course grading will take into account not only the final paper but also compliance with course rules and timely submission of written work for Spanish language correction.

GRADING SCALE

95%-100% = 10

84%-75%= 8

74%-65%= 7

64%-55%= 6

54%-45%= 5

44%-35%=4

34%-25%= 3

24%-15%=2

14%-0%=1

Argentine/

U.S.

10= A

9= A

8= A-

7= B+

6= B

5= B-

4= C

3= D

2= F

1= F

Timely Submissions

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course professor 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

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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.