



## **SYLLABUS**

**INTL 488/588: Independent Research**

**Instructor: Will Johnson, MA, JD**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**UO Credits: 4**

**Contact Hours\*: 40**

**Total Hours of Student Engagement (THSE) in all course activities\*: 120**

**Zagreb, Croatia**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Independent Research Projects integrate theory and practice through planned, supervised field research experience. A key component of a student's academic development is the ability to apply what is learned in the classroom to research conducted in the world around them. This course offers students individualized, applied learning opportunities to explore and clarify career goals, apply theory, acquire new skills, gain experience, further investigate topics of interest, and improve teamwork through an organized group research activity. I will assist each student in developing individualized learning goals that serve as the specific learning objectives for this course, while also working with the entire group of students to identify appropriate group research project goals, action items, and sub-sections. Each individual student will then be assigned a sub-section of the larger group research project. Graduate students will serve as team leads, if appropriate. Before departing from the United States, I will work with students to outline a research plan that supports their learning goals. Once onsite, I will work with the entire group of students to design and implement a group research project that allows collaborate research opportunities that also fit each students' individualized research goals. As a result, students who achieve their learning goals acquire a set of transferable skills and real-world experience that prepares them for academic positions, graduate school, fellowships, or further academic study.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Instructional Goals will vary slightly depending on the group research plan and the individualized research experience. Student learning objectives include:

- Assess achievement of individualized learning goals through task completion and faculty advisor feedback.
- Articulate achievement of learning goals clearly and concisely in the form of a final Research paper and Research reflection report (see below for more details).

### **PRE-RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS**

All students will complete and sign an INTL 401 Research Application and Contract prior to departure from the United States. This contract will serve as the individual syllabus for the

course. The details of the Research Application and Contract will be determined jointly by the student and the faculty supervisor.

### **RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS**

During the course of the Research program each student is required to travel with the other students and the faculty to research sites in Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia (and Kosovo), and Montenegro; to attend all mandatory group research activities (including, but not limited to, museum visits, guest lectures, interviews, and related activities). Each student will also participate in individualized research efforts throughout the program, as required by the group research plan and determined jointly by the faculty leader and the student. Each student is also expected to meet individually with the faculty leader at least twice a week throughout the program to discuss the ongoing challenges and benefits of the research project, including how it relates to relevant course material and future academic or professional goals. Students are also expected to discuss any and all limitations experienced during the course of the research.

Graduate students are required to conduct additional activities as needed by the faculty leader, including gathering of additional research materials and serving as a team lead for a sub-group of undergraduate students; meeting at least once a week with the faculty leader and at least once a week with their students in their team; reporting weekly to the faculty leader with status updates for the group research projects.

### **POST RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS:**

Upon completion of all Research requirements, students must work with their research group to submit a final research report to the faculty advisor within 1 week after the end of the program. All group research project requirements (including length) will be determined once the cohort is established. Each student is expected to contribute *at least 10 pages* (15 for graduate students) of written material to the final group research project. The specific details of the final research report will vary depending on the topic and type of research completed by the group(s).

Upon return to the United States, all students must submit a Research Reflection report to their faculty advisor.

The Research Reflection report (3-5 *pages*) must contain the following information:

1. A description of the student's specific research activities, including hours worked, individuals interviewed, and organizations or related entities the student accessed to complete the research (if applicable)
2. An explanation of how your academic major and study abroad experience prepared you for this research, and how any other INTL or UO courses helped in preparation for this experience.
3. Reflections on the experience regarding what you learned from this Research and how you anticipate this Research will contribute to your future goals and future career.
4. Graduate students must include an additional 2-4 page "team leader" reflection report. This report should include a self-evaluation of the team leader process that includes an overview of key successes, lessons learned, and areas of needed improvement.

## **METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)**

Independent Research credits will be graded by default, based on the evaluation breakdown listed below. Students have the choice to switch their research credits to Pass/ No Pass. Students need to make this request to GEO by the Pass/No Pass deadline indicated in the GEO pre-departure packet.

### Undergraduate Students:

Attendance and Participation (meeting with Faculty, participating in group research activities, site visits, interviews, etc.): 40%

Group Research Report: 40%\*

Research Reflection Report: 20%\*

\*The reflection report and the research report must be submitted no later than 5pm (PST) on September 5, 2019. Early submissions are encouraged. All assignments must be submitted electronically (via email to faculty).

### Graduate Students:

Attendance and Participation (meeting with Faculty, participating in group research activities, site visits, interviews, etc.): 25%

Weekly Status Reporting: 15%

Group Research Report: 40%\*

Research Reflection Report: 10%\*

Team Leader Reflection Report: 10%