



CET Syllabus of Record

Program: Intensive Arabic Language in Amman, Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman

Course Code / Title: (AM/DIRR 399) Independent Study

Total Hours: 25

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary discipline: May be determined according to field of study

Language of Instruction: English and/or Arabic

Prerequisites/Requirements: none

Description

Independent Study courses are reserved for students who are self-driven, organized, and academically focused. They must have clearly-articulated research interests, and have proven themselves capable of high-quality, autonomous academic work. Independent Study topics must combine textual with hands-on research—leveraging the local context as a learning environment—and are developed and decided in consultation with the advising faculty member. The final product is a thoughtful, well-researched, and well-written contribution to the subject area. Students may not drop an Independent Study once they have begun it.

Objectives

Through their Independent Study, students:

- Learn to identify, pursue, and deliver high-quality research semi-autonomously.
- Develop both field-based (subject permitting) and textual research skills.
- Build a thoughtful and well-rounded bibliography, in consultation with faculty.
- Deliver a final product that offers a thoughtful, well-reasoned, well-researched, and well-written contribution to the subject area.

Course Requirements

Students must develop a 1-2 page proposal outlining their proposed research topic, reasons for selecting it, and intended methodology. Along with the research proposal, students must also submit an initial bibliography, which they are expected to expand and update throughout the course of the term, and to which advising faculty contribute additional recommendations. Students meet with faculty on a regular basis to share journals and/or field notes, discuss readings, and determine upcoming readings and field visits. A 20-25 minute presentation or *viva voce* summarizing research findings and challenges is required at the mid-term, and a 18-20 page formal research paper is required at the completion of the term.

Grading

Students are evaluated according to the following breakdown:

- Proposal 10%
- Bibliography 10%
- Field notes/Research Journal 15%

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- Preparation for weekly meetings 15%
- Mid-term presentation/*viva voce* 20%
- Final research paper 30%

Readings

Students develop their own bibliography for the Independent Study, with contributions from the advising faculty. Though web sources and news articles are permitted, the bibliography must include a preponderance of scholarly articles and books.

Additional Resources

These may include web sources, films or other materials that support the independent study but do not contribute directly to it.

Outline of Course Content

Regular meetings with faculty—weekly or bi-weekly—cover the following topics:

1. Discuss possible research topics.
2. Review the proposal and bibliography
3. Finalize research topic and methodology, expand bibliography.
4. Review progress of research, discuss challenges, and update bibliography with additional sources as the project progresses.
5. Mid-term presentation/*viva voce*.
6. Discuss findings and pivot to the writing of the research paper.
7. Discuss draft research paper and evaluate the success of the project.