

Research Seminar (3 Credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The three topic modules of the Zurich Program are accompanied by In-Sites, a seminar devoted to the development of undergraduate research skills. The seminar offers an annotated overview of various research methodologies and helps students integrate what they have learned outside the classroom into structured and thoughtful research projects springing from their individual interests. In-Sites helps students choose a topic, write a research paper in well-defined stages and prepare a presentation of research findings at a research symposium. The seminar features lectures and a venue to rehearse ideas; offers writing workshops in which students choose their research topic, engage in peer reviews, and polish their work; and supports participants in shaping attractive presentations of their findings. This directed research seminar culminates in the In-Sites Symposium at the end of the semester, to be held at Franklin University Switzerland in Lugano, where students are given the opportunity to present their original research in a university setting to an audience of peers and professors. Students may earn an extra credit if they successfully turn their research project into a publishable article in our online undergraduate research journal.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Assessment for this course will be based on completed steps in producing a research paper, including choice of topic and hypothesis, research in university libraries, production of an annotated bibliography, writing successive drafts of the final research paper and oral presentation of the results.

Student work will be assigned to the professors of the topic modules from which students drew their project topics for grading to ensure that their work is assessed by experts in the field. Credit for student work in In-Sites will be awarded in the discipline in which the student's research is performed. The final grade will be based on participation, completion of discrete steps of research, the final research project and the final presentation at the In-Site Symposium at Franklin University Switzerland in Lugano. Those who choose to turn their projects into a publishable paper on the undergraduate level will be graded on the final published article.

COURSE RATIONALE

Experiential, on-site learning produces knowledge that is different from the kind of understanding often generated in class through lectures and textbooks. This class helps students to frame what they have learned on city sites as intellectual insights and to turn their impressions, in supervised phases, into polished research papers and well-structured academic presentations.

COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course include:

- to learn how to choose a research topic
- to learn how to use the libraries and resources in Zurich to do research
- to understand the necessary steps to produce a successful research paper
- to produce a well-structured and well-argued research paper
- to produce and deliver a research presentation
- to turn their project into a publishable paper (optional)

SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students should:

- be able to use local libraries and Franklin University Switzerland's electronic resources to find scholarly sources to complete papers and presentations
- have learned how to choose a research topic, how to focus it and how to develop a research hypothesis
- distinguish among different kinds of sources
- understand the discrete steps it takes to produce a polished research paper and presentation
- have successfully delivered a clear and well-structured presentation
- have learned the steps required to submit a research paper for publication (optional)

CONTACT HOURS AND MODULE STRUCTURE

Each module consists of four weeks of concentrated in-depth study in a particular topic area and offers a number of problem-based, disciplinary approaches. Depending on the research emphasis a student chooses in each module, credits will be awarded for business, management, art history, history, environmental studies, cultural studies, comparative literature, urban studies or media studies. The research seminar will award credits in the discipline in which students write their final research projects. The research seminar ends in a research symposium at Franklin University Switzerland in Lugano. Students may earn an additional credit if they successfully turn their research project into a publication in our online undergraduate research journal.

While the overall curriculum is set for fall 2019 and is designed to offer 15 credits, there is a bit of flexibility built in. Students may opt out of the language classes to drop the load to 12 credits for the semester, or they may replace one of the three modules with a second language course in order to study both French and German. Students that publish their research papers can obtain up to 16 credits for the semester.

Each course, modules and seminar will offer the equivalent of 42 contact hours. Students will participate not only in more traditional lectures held in the seminar space in Zurich, but also in excursions, fieldwork, hands-on encounters and programmed trips to the rest of Switzerland.