Directed Individual Readings and Research

Explanation
These courses—SOSC 787 Directed Individual Readings and SOSC 797 Directed Individual Research—permit students in the Master of Science Program in Social Science to undertake individual readings and research at the graduate level in a topic not covered by existing courses. Students should choose “readings” (787) if they are interested in exploring a literature or research area and “research” (797) if they have a strong idea of exactly what topic or issue they wish to examine and research.

Prerequisites & Restrictions
Graduate standing and 18 credits of SOSC core courses. No more than 6 credits may be applied toward the degree. Students must receive consent of Program Director.

Requirements
1. Students must identify an instructor within one of the participating disciplines of the M.S. Program in Social Science to direct the course.
2. In the semester prior to enrolling in the course, the student will meet with the instructor to define a topic and to draft a list of readings.
3. Students will submit the list of agreed-upon readings and due dates for readings and written assignments to the Program Director prior to the beginning of the semester of study.
4. Reading lists must require students to read **approximately 300 pages** (or the equivalent of a book) per week.
5. Students must write a **25-page paper** on a topic agreed upon with the instructor. Instructors may add additional weekly writing assignments.
6. Students will be graded 50% on discussions of weekly readings and 50% on final paper. (Student and instructor may renegotiate these proportions in consultation with the Program Director, however the assigned reading and written page totals must be respected).
7. As with all graded work completed during the course of study, students must include all graded written assignments in their final portfolio.
8. Students will receive whole letter grades in keeping with the graduate school policy. If students miss more than two planned discussion sessions with the instructor, they will have failed the reading discussion portion of the course.