



Missouri State

U N I V E R S I T Y

School of Defense and Strategic Studies

DSS 796 Directed Research/Reading Seminar Guidelines

(Not to be used for completion of the non-thesis project.)

A Directed Research/Reading Seminar can be taken only if the programmed courses do not meet student requirements. A formal approval process is required in advance of student registration, as outlined below. The program must meet the rigors of in-class seminars and be approved by both a DSS professor and DSS Director Dr. Christopher Ford, in advance of student registration.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Find a DSS professor willing to oversee a Directed Research/Reading Seminar in the semester in question with the background and expertise in the area the student wishes to study. NOTE: Professors are limited to no more than two Directed Research/Reading Seminars each semester unless special circumstances require otherwise (per discussion with the DSS Director).
2. Student prepares a syllabus that provides written, oral and reading requirements to be accomplished during the semester. The syllabus must also outline the number of times the student and professor will meet during the semester (*minimum of 5 formal meetings*) and the size and scope of research papers to be written and presented. Two to three instruments for grading must be noted in the course syllabus.
3. Reading List: The assigned/agreed reading list must be comparable to that of regular seminar classes (approximately 14 or more readings, each of 100-150 pages per week).
4. Scope of written work: The research/writing requirement must likewise be equivalent to seminar classes. Professor and student may agree to several short papers or one assignment of approximately 25-30 pages.
5. The topic/issue for study must directly relate to matters of defense and security issues and be in line with the scope of the DSS graduate program.
6. **The supervising professor must approve the student's syllabus. The student then submits the syllabus to DSS Director Dr. Christopher Ford (ChristopherFord@MissouriState.edu) for approval prior to the start of the semester (copying the supervising professor on the email).**
7. **Upon receipt of Dr. Ford's approval, forward the approval email to your academic advisor and request Permission to register for DSS 796.**
8. Questions: contact DSS Director Dr. Christopher Ford (ChristopherFord@MissouriState.edu).
9. Exceptions to the process outlined above must be directed through DSS Director Dr. Christopher Ford.