A student enrolled in the MPA or Professional MPA program may choose to undertake a directed reading course (SPS 897*), in consultation with a faculty supervisor. This option is designed for individual students with special interests that cannot be satisfied through course offerings in the School or other departments in a given year. Generally, a directed reading course involves a broad literature survey or an in-depth study on a particular topic of interest, under the direct supervision of a faculty advisor with expertise in the subject field.

Regular tutorial meetings with the supervisor and at least one major paper typically constitute the format of the course. Other models are possible. Normally, the work should be completed in one term. As a directed reading course represents an elective course for a degree credit, the workload and intellectual effort must be equivalent to a graduate level half-course.

A written proposal, which includes the purpose of the reading course, a preliminary bibliography and a tentative schedule for the completion of the work is signed by the student and supervisor and should be submitted to the program coordinator for approval before the start of the term in which the work is to be undertaken.

On completion of the course, the supervisor is required to assign a letter grade as an assessment of the student’s performance in the course.

February 2018