Directed Study OCEN685

What is the idea behind a Directed Study?
The Directed Study course (OCEN685) is a way for a student to obtain some specific knowledge useful to ongoing research, in a manner independent of a classroom environment. For example, a graduate student could have numerical modeling as a substantial component of their established research project, and might want to conduct a directed study with someone in the department who is knowledgeable in this area. In that case, a directed study makes sense.

What a Directed Study is NOT:
Acceptance of a Directed Study is not intended to indicate eventual acceptance as a funded student in my research group. It is also not intended to be an open-ended address of a vaguely defined research topic. (Example: “Sediment transport” is not specific. “Flow-moment based sediment transport under breaking waves” is getting there. “Numerical evaluation of the flow-based sediment transport mechanism of Bailard [1981] under breaking waves” is more like it.)

The Directed Study is a substantial investment of time, both from the student and the instructor. The time necessary, at least on my part, may not always be available. Additionally, it is not clear that a Directed Study is the best course to undertake in the early stages of one’s study in this program, even if the problem under consideration is well-considered. Because of this, I have been compelled to add a few conditions on my acceptance of students into the Directed Study course with me:

After Spring Semester 2012, I will only consider acceptance of students into OCEN685 (Directed Study) under the following conditions:

1) You have completed at least one academic year as a graduate student.

2) You have a specific problem of interest, and you have a clear idea of how my involvement will directly address this problem. (The adequacy of the specificity of the problem is at my discretion.)

3) In your (emailed or otherwise written) correspondence to me requesting a Directed Study, you address all aspects of your research problem, and specifically point out which aspects of my research area and expertise will help solve your problem.

Note that I still reserve the right to decline to participate even if the above conditions are met – these are generally due to factors such as extended travel over the course of a semester, or research deadlines, or similar. Additionally, I reserve the right to limit the overall number of OCEN685 students I allow in any one semester.