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| **Tennessee State University**  **Social Work Program** | **Social Work Research II**  **SOWK4850-01**  **FALL 2013**  **Credits: 2** |
| **Instructor:** Michael A. Wright  **Email:** mwright17@tnstate.edu  **Office:** Elliott Hall 302 | **Time: Time:** 1:50pm – 3:35pm F  **Location:** Elliott Hall 309  **Office Phone:** 963-7673 |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The development and implementation of a practice-related research design. Emphasis is on data collection, data analysis, and reporting of data collected in field placement. Prerequisite: SOWK 4800. Co-requisites: SOWK 4100, 4200. Enrollment limited to Social Work majors only.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Rubin & Babbie (2013). Essential Research Methods for Social Work, (3rd Ed). Independence, KY: Brooks/Cole. ISBN13: 978-0-8400-2913-3

**SKILLS & ASSESSMENTS**

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| **Objective** | **Assessment** |
| **CONSTRUCT A RESEARCH PLAN DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES.** | Research Report |
| **IMPLEMENT A RESEARCH PLAN.** | Research Report |
| **COMMUNICATE RESEARCH FINDINGS ACROSS POPULATIONS.** | Research Report |

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & NOTES**

1. **PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

**All students are expected to demonstrate the following:**

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|  | Expectation | Definition |
|  | Identify as a professional social worker | As students, you can expect to have your current knowledge, skills, and values challenged as you learn and wrestle with professional social work knowledge, skills, and values in the development of a professional social work identity. |
|  | Demonstrate a Proactive Commitment to Learning | As a student, you are expected to take time to review the syllabus and workload of the course to make a self-assessment to your abilities to fulfill the course requirements. As needed, you should request additional information about assignments or grading procedures. Faculty may respond to your request individually or as a group, in class or out of class time. If you recognize a conflict between due dates in the course and your personal responsibilities, notify your professor immediately to problem-solve and negotiate a resolution. |
|  | Utilize Resources and Feedback with Efficacy | As a student, you are expected to identify and communicate concerns you have and to seek out help. Likewise, as a student, you need to be open to feedback by the faculty on your work and professional behaviors and be willing to effectively use and integrate that feedback into future work and your understanding of professional social work behaviors. If you are unable to contact a professor or other support resource, be sure to take note of the time, date, mode of contact to record a concrete timeline of events. This will help us improve the system of support so that it better responds to your needs. |
|  | Communicate Effectively with respect and cultural competence | Students are expected to develop communication and language that does not attack individuals for beliefs, but engages in dialogue concerning substantive issues, demonstrates critical thinking, and is supported by a rationale and evidence. |
|  | Apply Problem Solving and Critical Thinking Skills | Students are expected to ask questions in a way that demonstrates your knowledge and your thought process. In asking questions, students may adopt the following manner: “I understand that this is… but I don’t see how this relates to that?” or “May I have a point of clarity?” |
|  | Demonstrate Self-Awareness and Ethical Conduct | Students are expected to embrace the idea that you represent the social work profession when you are in the community and working with our partner agencies. You are also expected to take time to become familiar with the NASW Code of Ethics. You will, also, need to set time aside to reflect on, to integrate, and to assess your learning about and understanding of ethical decision making. |
|  | Manage a Healthy & Balanced Lifestyle effectively Managing Stress | Students are expected to take advantage of the multitude of resources available during matriculation. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to someone and see out help. |

**FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE ABOVE PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, AND THE UNIVERSITY.**

**II. ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY**

NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Each student must plan to complete assignments ahead of the posted due dates in order to ensure that no surprises will inhibit the timely completion any of the assignments. Staffing, Courier, Email or other technological excuses for late work will NOT be accepted. Assignments are due by 5pm on the specified day. Email written assignments to [mwright17@tnstate.edu](mailto:mwright17@tnstate.edu) to ensure submission by a return email from the professor. Make up examinations are **NOT** given. Assignments not submitted by the due date will receive a zero (0) grade.

**III. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to be in attendance and in learning posture once class role is called. Tardiness will result in a zero grade on any in-class assignments, a **3 point reduction in final grade for each absence, and a one point reduction in final grade for each tardy.**

**III. GOVERNING POLICY DOCUMENTS**

Social Work Students are expected to submit all work in compliance with Tennessee State University’s Academic Integrity Policy and other applicable policies detailed in the University Student Handbook, Departmental Policy & Procedures Manual, and Departmental Student Handbook. In addition, social work students are expected to adhere to the *Social Work Code of Ethics* available for review at http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/default.asp

**IV. STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to inform the instructor and university of any disability. Contact the Disabled Student Services Office at 963-7400 if you require documentation and/or accommodation. The Department of Social Work in conjunction with the Office of Disabled Student Services makes reasonable accommodations for qualified students with medically documented disabilities. The instructor must be presented with documentation of your disability prior to the due date of assignments. More information is available at <http://www.tnstate.edu/interior.aps?mid=5637&ptid=1>

**PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE**

**If you have not mastered the following skills, please seek additional instruction.**

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| Research Proposal | Articulate the components of a research proposal: Problem, Question, Concepts, Hypothesis, Design, Data Analysis |
| Instruments in-Depth | Connect the construction of research instruments with the data analysis process. |
| Writing the Human Subjects Proposal | Complete the human subjects review board paperwork. Reflect on your ability to ensure the safety of subjects in your study. |
| How to Literature Review | Establish a specific contribution for the research you intend to conduct in the context of other research. Express your level of certainty that your literature review is thorough. |
| Writing the Method and Data Analysis | Articulate your research protocol. Share your protocol with another person and receive feedback when they attempt to implement it. |
| Collecting & Reporting Data | Collect and analyze research data for presentation in a Findings report. Balance your personal bias with the objective controls in your research design. |
| Conclusions: Writing the Journal Article | Compose conclusions that follow logically from your research. Reflect on the potential influence of careful and recklessly conducted research. |

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

|  | **DATE** | **LESSON TOPICS LEARNING ACTIVITIES** | **ASSIGNMENT DUE** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | AUG 30 | INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE |  |
| Week 2 | SEP 6 | AGENCY RESEARCH |  |
| Week 3 | SEP 13 | PROCESS MAPPING |  |
| Week 4 | SEP 20 | ORGANIZATIONAL COMPENDIUM |  |
| Week 5 | SEP 27 | KNOWLEDGE HARVESTING | **INTRODUCTION, RESEARCH INSTRUMENT, INFORMED CONSENT & IRB PROPOSAL** |
| Week 6 | OCT 4 | STAFF TRAINING & TRAINING MANUALS |  |
| Week 7 | OCT 11 | PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO |  |
| Week 8 | OCT 18 | NO CLASS: NACSW CONFERENCE |  |
| Week 9 | OCT 25 | EMPLOYMENT |  |
| Week 10 | NOV 1 | LICENSURE | **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, RESEARCH DESIGN & DATA ANALYSIS** |
| Week 11 | NOV 8 | SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL TESTING |  |
| Week 12 | NOV 15 | HBSE COMPREHENSIVE TEST |  |
| Week 13 | NOV 22 | RESEARCH COMPREHENSIVE TEST | **FINDINGS REPORT, CONCLUSIONS REPORT, RESEARCH REPORT** |
| Week 14 | NOV 29 | NO SCHOOL: THANKSGIVING |  |

**Bibliography**

Baumrind, D. (1985). Research using intentional deception: Ethical issues revised. American Psychologist, 40(2), 165-174.

Caplan, A.L. (1992) Twenty years after, the legacy of the Tuskegee syphilis study: When evil intrudes. Hastings Center Report, 22(6), 29-32.

Mahoney, J. (2004). Comparative-Historical methodology. Annual Review of Sociology,30. 81-101.

Mahoney, J. and Rueschemeyer, D. (2003). Comparative historical analysis in the social sciences. New York, NY: Cambridge.

George, A.L. and Bennet, A. (2004). Case studies and theory development in the social sciences. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

EVALUATION FORMAT

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| **Graded Items in this Course** | **% Achieved** | **Points Possible** |  | **% Achieved** | **Points Possible** |
| INTRODUCTION  RESEARCH INSTRUMENT  IRB PROPOSAL |  |  | SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONAL TESTING |  | 100 |
|  |  | HBSE COMPREHENSIVE TEST |  | 100 |
|  | 100 | RESEARCH COMPREHENSIVE TEST |  | 100 |
| ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY  RESEARCH DESIGN & DATA ANALYSIS |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 100 |  |  |  |
| FINDINGS REPORT  CONCLUSIONS REPORT  RESEARCH REPORT |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 100 |  |  |  |
| COLUMN TOTAL |  | 300 | COLUMN TOTAL |  | 300 |
| Final Point Total  Used to Calculate Your Final Grade. Calculate your final grade by adding POINTS ACHIEVED and dividing that total by 6. | | | |  | 600 |

**GRADING SCALE**

A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79 D = 60 – 69 F = 59 and below

**STUDENT LEARNING SELF-ASSESSMENT**

FALL SEMESTER 2013

This survey is to be completed and turned in at the end of the semester when this course is completed. Your response on this survey does not impact your grade. The information you provide is used to determine possible social work program improvements.

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|  | **Limited Grasp of the Skill** | **Below Average Grasp** | **Average Grasp** | **Above Average Grasp** | **Exceptional Grasp of the Skill** |
| **CONSTRUCT A RESEARCH PLAN DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES.** | *□* | *□* | *□* | *□* | *□* |
| **IMPLEMENT A RESEARCH PLAN.** | *□* | *□* | *□* | *□* | *□* |
| **COMMUNICATE RESEARCH FINDINGS ACROSS POPULATIONS.** | *□* | *□* | *□* | *□* | *□* |