

## **Research Practicum I Course Syllabus**

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Number: SCWK 416  
Credits: 1  
Pre-requisites: SCWK 415, Social Work Research  
Co-requisite: SCWK 401, Internship II  
Quarter offered: Winter

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: John Domitrovich  
Office: Beaverhead Building, Room 131  
Telephone: 275-4889 (SKC); 251-2337 (Missoula)  
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Office hours: As posted

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Research Practicum I** provides students with the opportunity to utilize the knowledge and skills learned in SCWK 415 in order to develop the basic research design and associated instruments needed to fully implement their individual research projects spring quarter. [Portfolio Course]

The following BSW program objectives are addressed in this course:

- #1 Apply critical thinking skills.
- #2 Apply the guiding principles and ethical standards of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- #10 Evaluate and apply research skills and studies to practice.
- #11 Evaluate effectiveness of practice.
- #12 Demonstrate professional writing and speaking skills.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

#### General Course Objectives

1. Construct research instruments with which to measure attitudes, behaviors, and issues encountered in a practice setting. (#1, #2, #10)

*Measured by: data gathering instrument (s) accompanying research proposal.*

2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic research design, including program evaluation designs, and the ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of such designs in order to evaluate one's practice. (#1, #2, #10, #11)

*Measured by: Written Research Proposal.*

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method in the investigation of human behavior with an emphasis on social justice, and ethical issues. (#1, #2, #10, #11)

*Measured by: ethical concerns statement in research proposal.*

4. Demonstrate the ability to identify and utilize appropriate sampling techniques. (#1, #10, #11)

*Measured by: sampling design included in research proposal.*

5. Demonstrate the ability to collect and analyze data using both qualitative and quantitative methods, and effectively communicate empirically based knowledge. (#1, #10, #11)

*Measured by: data gathering and analysis methodologies included in student research proposal.*

6. Demonstrate professional writing skills. (#12)

*Measured by: Written Research Proposal.*

### Critical Thinking Objectives

7. Design a research project that will include the effective use of basic statistical procedures. (#1, #10)

*Measured by: a section in the research proposal that specifies the particular variables in the research that are to be correlated, and a specification of the types of correlations hypothesized.*

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Text: Royce, D. (2004). *Research Methods in Social Work* (4<sup>th</sup> edition). California: Thomson. Reading material may also be handed out in class and additional reading material may be placed on eReserve through the library.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

This course will center on the development of a research design project that will be implemented in the following Research Practicum II in spring quarter.

1. Attendance. 100 points.
2. Instructor/student meetings. Students will be required to meet with the instructor once weekly, in addition to the scheduled class session, in order to discuss specific issues and problems related to the individual research projects. The student will receive 10 points per meeting, and may miss one meeting without the loss of points.

3. Individual Tool Assignments. 8 x 20 points each=160 total points.
4. Written Research Proposal. The research proposal is a written document that will be done in size 12 font, APA format, with a bibliography listing all outside sources used. The minimum number of outside sources is five (literature review). The research proposal must include a detailed section on the research problem/research site to be addressed, including a description of relevant past research that relates to the current research; the overall research design of the project; a detailed section on the instruments designed to be used in the data gathering process; a detailed description of the sampling procedure to be used; a detailed section on any statistical/numerical methods to be used on the data; and a statement that details any ethical considerations concerning the project. 240 points.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Class attendance will be considered in the final grade. A total of 100 points will be reserved for class attendance. If the student misses one class, this will not affect one's grade, but any classes missed after one class will decrease the total attendance points received by 10 points per class day missed. Any student who misses a total of six (6) or more classes will be asked to withdraw from the class. All students are expected to keep up on the assigned reading and to come prepared for class.

### **GRADING**

Attendance (scheduled class)	100 points
Attendance (additional instructor/student meeting)	100 points
Individual Tool Assignments (8 x 20 points each)	160 points
Written Research Proposal (Points x 4)	240 points

A total of 600 points possible.

Grades will be based on the following accumulation of points:

541-600=A  
481-540=B  
421-480=C  
361-420=D  
Less than 360=F

Late work will receive no grade higher than a "C".

An Incomplete grade ("I") for this course is NOT an option, except in cases of extreme emergency or the death of a family member. In either situation, instructor approval is required. The instructor must be notified within 48 hours.

## WEEKLY OUTLINE

- Week 1: Discussion of syllabus
- Week 2: “The Question” Tool due
- Week 3: “Literature Review” Tool due
- Week 4: “Variables” Tool due
- Week 5: “Hypotheses” Tool due (expected correlations also need to be attached to this assignment: see critical thinking objective #7 above)
- Week 6: “Research Design” Tool due
- Week 7: “Sampling” Tool due
- Week 8: “Protection of Human Subjects” Tool due
- Week 9: “Data Collection/Instruments designed” Tool due
- Week 10: Student research proposal presentations

## REFERENCES

- Bickman, L. (1998). *Handbook of applied social research methods*. Berkeley, California: Sage Publications.
- Bryman, A. (2001). *Social research methods*. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press.
- Cherry, A. (2000). *A research primer for the helping professions: Methods, statistics, and writing*. Berkeley, California: Wadsworth/Thomson.
- Cozby, P. (2004). *Methods in behavioral research*. Boston, Mass.: McGraw-Hill.
- Diener, E. (1978). *Ethics in social and behavioral research*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press.
- Girden, E. (2001). *Evaluating research articles from start to finish*. Thousand Oaks,

- California: Sage Publications.
- Howe, R. (1993). *A student guide to research in the social sciences*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Kirk, A. (Ed.) (1999). *Social work research methods: Building knowledge for practice*. Washington, D.C.: NASW Press.
- Lewis-Beck, M. (2004). *The sage encyclopedia of social science research methods*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.
- Maier, M. (1999). *The data game: Controversies in social sciences statistics*. Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe. M
- Martin, L. (1996). *Measuring the performance of human service programs*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.
- Myrdal, G. (1969). *Objectivity in social research*. New York, N.Y.: Pantheon Books.
- Nathan, R. (1988). *Social science in government: Uses and misuses*. New York, N.Y.: Basic Books.
- Neuman, W. (2003). *Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.
- Patton, M. (1987). *How to use qualitative methods in evaluation*. Newbury Park, California: Sage Publications.
- Phillips, D.C. (1987). *Philosophy, science, and social inquiry: Contemporary methodological controversies in social science and related applied fields of research*. Oxford, New York: Pergamon Press.
- Russell, B. (2000). *Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

Thyler, B. (2001). *The handbook of social work research methods*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

### Research Proposal Rubric

Section		Quality	
Introduction	Problem	Describes problem clearly	5
		Too broad or vague	3
		Does not describe problem	0
	Purpose of research	States research question and major hypotheses	5
		Too broad or vague	3
		Does not state question and/or hypotheses	0
	Significance of problem	States significance of the problem and rationale for studying it	5
		Too broad or vague	3
		Does not state significance and rationale	0
Literature review	Relevant	Literature is relevant	5
		Literature is partly relevant	3
		Literature is not relevant	0
	Thorough	Literature review is thorough	5
		Literature review is adequate	3
		Literature review is inadequate	0
	Current	Literature is current	5
		Literature is outdated but still relevant	3
		Literature is outdated	0
Methodology	Research design and data collection procedures	Well developed, appropriate	5
		Exists but is underdeveloped; sufficient	3
		Inappropriate, insufficient, or missing	0
	Characteristics of subjects	Study and control groups well chosen	5
		Selection is appropriate and sufficient	3
		Selection is inappropriate and insufficient	0
	Ethical considerations	Discussed thoughtfully and thoroughly	5
		Discussed adequately	3
		Ethical considerations not discussed	0
	Sampling design	Well developed, appropriate	5
		Exist but are underdeveloped; sufficient	3
		Inappropriate, insufficient, or missing	0
	Description of instrumentation	Instruments well developed, reliable, valid	5
		Exist but are underdeveloped; sufficient	3
		Not developed, unreliable, invalid	0
Operationalization of variables	Variable are not conceptualized or described	5	
	Variables are partially conceptualized and described	3	
	Variables are fully conceptualized and described	0	
		<b>POINTS POSSIBLE: 60</b>	

## **SKC Syllabus Supplement**

### **Academic Honor Code**

All course work shall follow the guidelines of the Academic Honor Code as set forth by the SKC Student Handbook. Do your own work; allow other students to do their own work. **Plagiarism** involves the taking of someone else's words, ideas, or writings and presenting them as your own. Avoid plagiarism, and always acknowledge the ideas of others and cite your sources of information. Violation of the Academic Honor Code may result in failure of the assignment, the course, or possible expulsion from school.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations are provided to students with diagnosed or suspected disabilities through the ACCESS Office located in the Social Work Department in the Beaverhead Building. For additional information, contact John Domitrovich, the SKC ACCESS Officer, Beaverhead Building Room 131; 406-275-4889; john\_domitrovich@skc.edu.

### **Appropriate Behavior**

As an enrolled student of Salish Kootenai College, you are expected to display professionalism and responsibility in attitude and behavior. Treat yourself and others with courtesy and respect.

### **Course Transferability**

Transferability of any SKC course to any other academic institution is entirely dependent upon the program requirements of that other institution.

### **Course Responsibilities**

Knowledge of the course content, class lectures, assignments, and syllabus content are the responsibility of the student regardless of absenteeism. Syllabus content and calendars are tentative; instructors will notify you of any changes.

### **Study Time Expectation**

Students are expected to spend one (1) hour in class and a minimum of two (2) hours outside the class per week per every credit hour. For example, if this is a 5-credit course, you are expected to spend 5 hours in class and a minimum of 10 hours outside of class, a total of at least 15 hours each week to earn a C.

### **Attendance**

Good attendance and active participation will help you to achieve success in your academic career. Poor attendance will result in missed information, missed assignments and tests, and possible failure of the course.