

## **Research Practicum II Course Syllabus**

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Number: SCWK 417  
Credits: 1  
Pre-requisites: SCWK 416, Research Practicum I  
Co-requisite: SCWK 402, Internship III  
Quarter offered: Spring

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: John Domitrovich  
Office: Beaverhead Building, Room 131  
Telephone: 275-4889 (SKC); 251-2337 (Missoula)  
E-mail: [john\\_domitrovich@skc.edu](mailto:john_domitrovich@skc.edu)  
Office hours: As posted

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.
- #15 Demonstrate cultural competency in practice with diverse populations, specifically with Native American people.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Research Practicum II** provides students with the opportunity to implement the research project designed in Research Practicum I, gather all relevant research data, and present research results in PowerPoint format. [Portfolio Course]

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

#### General Course Objectives

1. Construct and use instruments with which to measure attitudes, behaviors, and issues encountered in a practice setting. (#1, 2, 10, 12)

*Measured by: PowerPoint presentation on research project, and a hard copy of any data gathering instrument(s) used.*

2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic research design, and the ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of such designs. (#1, 10, 12)

*Measured by: PowerPoint presentation on research project*

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method in the investigation of human behavior, with an emphasis on social justice and ethical concerns. (#1, 2, 10, 12)

*Measured by: PowerPoint presentation on research project*

4. Demonstrate the ability to construct and implement appropriate sampling techniques. (#1, 10, 11, 12)

*Measured by: PowerPoint presentation on research project*

5. Collect and analyze data using both qualitative and quantitative methods. (#1, 2, 10, 15)

*Measured by: PowerPoint presentation on research project*

6. Critically review and assess research done by others. (#1, 10, 12)

*Measured by: literature reviews in PowerPoint presentation on research project*

7. Demonstrate professional presentation technology skills. (#12)

*Measured by: final research PowerPoint presentation*

### Critical Thinking Objectives

8. Analyze, and appropriately display research data, and correctly utilize basic statistical procedures in the communication of empirically generated research data. (#1, 10, 12)

*Measured by: PowerPoint presentation on research project*

### Cultural Objectives

9. Demonstrate sensitivity to the possible implications of research on diverse social and cultural populations. (#2, 15)

*Measured by: research impact on population statement in final presentation*

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Text: Royce, D. (2004). *Research Methods in Social Work* (10<sup>th</sup> edition). California: Brooks/Cole.

Reading materials may also be handed out in class or be placed on EReserve through the library.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. PowerPoint Presentation. The presentation will be made in class and the PowerPoint CD will also be included in the student's portfolio. Individual presentations will be group-graded by the social work faculty, utilizing the research project assessment form. 200 points. Please see assignment attachment for details.
2. Attendance. 100 points.
3. Weekly meetings with the instructor. In addition to the scheduled class session, students will be required to meet with the instructor once weekly 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. 100 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 his / her grade, but any classes missed after that 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. Students may be required to meet weekly with instructor, in addition to weekly all-class meeting.

### **GRADING**

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. PowerPoint presentation             | 200 points |
| 2. Attendance                          | 100 points |
| 3. Weekly meetings with the instructor | 100 points |

A total of 400 points is possible.

Grades will be based on the following accumulation of points:

360-400=A  
320-359=B  
280-319=C  
240-279=D  
Less than 240=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; student discussion related to research interests and availability of research sites.
- Week 2: Instruction given to students on PowerPoint software to enable them to do PowerPoint presentation on research project.
- Week 3: Instruction given to students on PowerPoint software to enable them to do PowerPoint presentation on research project.
- Week 4: Individual student discussion of research projects at this point in time/feedback from instructor and class in terms of data gathering process/sampling procedure(s) being used.
- Week 5: Individual student discussion of research projects at this point in time; feedback from instructor and class in terms of data analysis/statistical procedures being used.
- Week 6: Individual student discussion of research projects at this point in time; feedback from instructor and class in terms of data display techniques being used in research paper/PowerPoint presentation.
- Week 7: Individual student discussion of research projects at this point in time/feedback from instructor on aspects related to the writing of the research paper.
- Week 8: Individual student discussion of research projects at this point in time/feedback from instructor on aspects related to the writing of the research paper
- Week 9: Individual student discussion of research projects at this point in time/feedback from instructor on aspects related to the writing of the research paper.  
**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**
- Week 10: Student PowerPoint presentations on research projects.

## **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.

## **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.

## PowerPoint Presentation

The PowerPoint (PP) presentation allows the student the opportunity to describe the culmination of all of the hard work done during the previous two quarters. The student must do a color presentation and the more creative they are with all the glitter and bangles, the higher they will score on their grade for the presentation. Show the Social Work faculty that you really know how to use PP!!!

The PowerPoint presentation must include the following sections:

- 1) Definition of the Problem: here the student presents “how and why” they became interested in a particular problem or problems. Here, personal anecdotes are highly appropriate and welcome.
- 2) Literature Review: have others done research on your problem? What were the results? Indicate major research that has been done and indicate its relevance to your study.
- 3) Definition of Variables and Hypotheses: describe the variables that are of concern to you in your research problem. Specify the relationships/hypotheses that you expect to exist between these variables, i.e., specify the expected correlations between the variables.
- 4) Research Design: specify the design used in your research. “Who” did you do your study on? “How” did you design your study procedure? “Where” did you gather your information? Describe the study design in all of its aspects. Indicate if you are using a quantitative or qualitative research approach. Indicate if you are using an inductive or deductive research approach, etc.
- 5) Sampling Design: describe the sampling procedure used (stratified random, quota, snowball, etc.). Describe any limitations that have impacted your selection of sampling design. Describe any considerations with respect to the sample size selected. Specify the numbers of subjects involved in your sample and indicate how you arrived at these numbers.
- 6) Ethical Considerations: describe how you handled any concerns related to the confidentiality or anonymity of the subjects in your study.
- 7) Research Instruments Used: if you are doing survey research, describe your survey instrument (prepare copies for your audience); describe any assessment instruments used, and indicate their relevance to your study.  
Describe if you are using a scale format or an index format (or both) in your survey instrument(s).
- 8) Conclusions: describe the results of your study in detail. Demonstrate the results of your study through the ample use of charts, graphs, scatter plots, etc. Describe any totally unexpected findings. Describe the implications of your study with respect to the knowledge base of your area of concern. How do your results compare with previous research done in your area of common concern? Describe your plans, if any, for further research in your area of concern

Submit a copy of your PowerPoint project on a CD at the time of your presentation.