



Syllabus



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SOC-482: Social Research

Course Description

This course provides the principles and methods of research design. Using survey, experimental, and observational approaches, students develop an appreciation for the research process. Quantitative and qualitative approaches are also explored. Students are involved in research project development and a survey exercise which provide opportunities for application of course material.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: SOC-150 and an approved statistics course or consent of the department.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research.
2. Apply critical thinking to analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings.
3. Use and translate research findings to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery.
4. Demonstrate a conviction of the importance of critical thinking and lifelong learning.

Course Topics

- What is Social Research? How to read research, Research Design, Literature review, Ethical Considerations, Researcher Positionality, Culturally Competent Research, Research project development, Data Measurement, Validity

Course Resources

Faulkner, S. & Faulkner, C. (2018). [*Research methods for social workers: A practice-based approach*](#) (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press, NY. Press. ISBN: 978019085894

Scales, T. L., & Kelly, M. S. (2016). *Christianity and social work: Readings in the integration of Christian faith and social work practice* (5th ed.). Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

IWU Diversity Statement

IWU, in covenant with God's reconciling work and in accordance with the Biblical principles of our historic Wesleyan tradition, commits to build a community that reflects Kingdom diversity.

We will foster an intentional environment for living, teaching, and learning, which exhibits honor, respect, and dignity. Acknowledging visible or invisible differences, our community authentically values each member's earthly and eternal worth. We refute ignorance and isolation and embrace deliberate and courageous engagement that exhibits Christ's commandment to love all humankind. (2016)

Grading Scale

Grade	Quality Points Per Credit	Percentage	Score
A	4.0	95%–100%	950–1000
A-	3.7	92%–94.9%	920–949
B+	3.3	89%–91.9%	890–919
B	3.0	85%–88.9%	850–889
B-	2.7	82%–84.9%	820–849
C+	2.3	79%–81.9%	790–819
C	2.0	75%–78.9%	750–789

C-	1.7	72%–74.9%	720–749
D+	1.3	69%–71.9%	690–719
D	1.0	65%–68.9%	650–689
F	0.0	0%–64.9%	0–649

Note: In graduate level courses, a grade of C- or below will require the course to be repeated.

Grading Policies

Your grading policy for your course is dependent on your school and program. Your grading policies can be found in the [IWU Catalog](#).

Letter Grade Equivalencies

Grade	Quality Points Per Credit
A	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.
B	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for the degree program. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.
C	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at

	least minimally.
D	Quality and quantity of work is below average. Has minimal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below acceptable levels.
F	Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Note: In graduate level courses, a grade of C- or below will require the course to be repeated.

Workshop Outlines

Workshop One Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this workshop, students will be able to:

- Recognize aspects of learning opportunities and critical thinking
- Extract deeper understanding of the educational experience
- Relate learned concepts to others effectively
- Identify different research designs and rationales for use
- Analyze research literature for examples of research theory in practice
- Appraise practical research experience through application of research concepts
- Summarize research literature to show mastery of research designs and use
- Articulate understanding of research designs and rationales for use
- Design a rationale for studying your research topic

Workshop One Outline

Title	Due Dates
1.1 Discussion: Devotional-Growing in Wisdom	Initial post due by fourth day of workshop due by last day of the workshop
1.2 Information: Reading	Due by last day of the workshop
1.3 Discussion: Research Basics	Initial post is due by the end of the workshop. Replies to peers and due by the end of the last day of the workshop
1.4 Assignment: Research Topic Endorsement	Due by the end of the last day of the workshop

Enrollment	
1.5 Quiz	Due by the end of the last day of the

*These times are only estimates. Actual completion times will vary.

Workshop Two Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this workshop, students will be able to:

- Recognize aspects of learning opportunities and critical thinking
- Relate learned concepts to others effectively.
- Collaborate with others in positive dialogue that challenges and deepens understanding.
- Describe key concepts in reading social research
- Infer how to utilize findings to impact policy and/or practice
- Conclude how research findings might be used to modify service delivery
- Discover scholarly research findings that apply to an identified policy or practice.
- Support practice or policy decision veracity with discovered research findings
- Identify different research designs and rationales for use.
- Articulate understanding of research designs and rationales for use

Workshop Two Outline

Title	Due Dates
2.1 Discussion: Devotional-Biblical Planning	Initial post due by fourth day of workshop due by last day of the workshop
2.2 Information: Reading	Due by last day of the workshop
2.3 Discussion: How to Read Research	Initial post is due by the end of the workshop. Replies to peers and due by the end of the last day of the
2.4 Assignment: Literature Review	Due by last day of the workshop
2.5 Quiz: Research Methods for Social Workers, Chapter 4 and Chapter 13	Due by the end of the last day of the

*These times are only estimates. Actual completion times will vary.

Workshop Three Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this workshop, students will be able to:

- Recognize aspects of learning opportunities and critical thinking.
- Relate learned concepts to others effectively.
- Collaborate with others in positive dialogue that challenges and deepens understanding.
- Describe key concepts in reading social research.
- Infer how to utilize findings to impact policy and/or practice.
- Conclude how research findings might be used to modify service delivery.
- Support practice or policy decision veracity with discovered research findings.
- Identify different research designs and rationales for use.

Workshop Three Outline

Title	Due Dates
3.1 Discussion: Devotional-Biblical Ethics	Initial post due by fourth day of wo due by last day of the workshop
3.2 Information: Reading	Due by last day of the workshop
3.3 Discussion: Ethics	Initial post is due by the end of the the workshop. Replies to peers and due by the end of the last day of th
3.4 Assignment: Ethical Considerations & Researcher Positionality Paper	Due by the last day of the worksho
3.5 Quiz: Research Methods for Social Workers, Chapter 2	Due by the end of the last day of th

*These times are only estimates. Actual completion times will vary.

Workshop Four Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this workshop, students will be able to:

- Recognize aspects of learning opportunities and critical thinking.
- Relate learned concepts to others effectively.
- Collaborate with others in positive dialogue that challenges and deepens understanding.
- Explain how qualitative and quantitative research methods are utilized differently.
- Interpret research findings to understand veracity of conclusions.
- Appraise practical research experience through application of research concepts.
- Plan out a research project that follows research methods.
- Design a research project that builds off of scholarly research findings.
- Identify different research designs and rationales for use.
- Articulate understanding of research designs and rationales for use.

Workshop Four Outline

Title	Due Dates
4.1 Discussion: Devotional-Biblical Testing	Initial post due by fourth day of wo due by last day of the workshop.
4.2 Information: Reading	Due by the last day of the worksho
4.3 Discussion: The Impact of Validity and Reliability on Social Work Research	Initial post is due by the end of the the workshop. Replies to peers and due by the end of the last day of tr
4.4 Assignment: Research Design & Rationale	Due by last day of the workshop.
4.5 Quiz: Chapter 3 and 5	Due by the end of the last day of tr

*These times are only estimates. Actual completion times will vary.

Workshop Five Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this workshop, students will be able to:

- Recognize aspects of learning opportunities and critical thinking
- Relate learned concepts to others effectively
- Collaborate with others in positive dialogue that challenges and deepens understanding
- Explain how qualitative and quantitative research methods are utilized differently
- Interpret research findings to understand veracity of conclusions
- Devise how research methods can be applied to research project development
- Plan out a research project that follows research methods
- Write a research project that uses methods and findings to reach valid results.
- Identify different research designs and rationales for use
- Articulate understanding of research designs and rationales for use

Workshop Five Outline

Title	Due Dates

5.1 Discussion: Devotional-Gathering Information	Initial post due by fourth day of wo due by last day of the workshop
5.2 Information: Reading	Due by last day of the workshop.
5.3 Discussion: Data Collection	Initial post is due by the end of the the workshop. Replies to peers and due by the end of the last day of tr
5.4 Assignment: Data Collection	Due by the last day of the worksho
5.5 Quiz: Chapter 7 & 8	Due by the end of the last day fo th

*These times are only estimates. Actual completion times will vary.

Workshop Six Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this workshop, students will be able to:

- Explain how qualitative and quantitative research methods are utilized differently
- Interpret research findings to understand veracity of conclusions
- Identify different research designs and rationales for use
- Summarize research literature to show mastery of research designs and use
- Extract deeper understanding of the educational experience
- Relate learned concepts to others effectively
- Collaborate with others in positive dialogue that challenges and deepens understanding
- Appraise practical research experience through application of research concepts
- Write a research project that uses methods and findings to reach valid results.
- Discover analytical processes inherent in learning opportunity
- Design a research project that builds off of scholarly research findings
- Defend thought processes on provided course topics

Workshop Six Outline

Title	Due Dates
6.1 Discussion: Devotional-Recognizing God's Will	Initial post due by fourth day of wo due by last day of the workshop.
6.2 Information: Reading	Due by the last day of the worksho
6.3 Discussion: Culturally Competent	Initial post is due by the end of the the workshop. Replies to peers and

Research	the workshop. Replies to peers and due by the end of the last day of th
6.4 Project: KA Project-Full Research paper	Due by the last day of the worksho
6.5 Assignment: Reflection	Due by the end of the last day of th
6.6 End of Course Survey	Due by the last day of the worksho

*These times are only estimates. Actual completion times will vary.

Outline Totals

Total Time	Total Points
89.5 hours*	1000

* These timings are based on estimations of average times to complete each activity. Actual activity completion times will vary.

Alternative Assignment Policy

[Reflect in ePortfolio](#)
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[Open with docReader](#)


Activity Details

Task: View this topic

Completion Summary