

Marian University
College of Arts, Sciences, & Letters (3 Credits)

SWK352/Research Methods

Assistant Professor: Anairahe Rosenow CSW MSW

SEMESTER: Summer 2021

SCHOOL: College of Arts, Sciences and Letters

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COURSE MEETING: Online (Summer Session II)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Essential Research Methods for Social Work 4th Ed. (2016). Rubin, A. & Babbie, E. R. (**WITH MINDTAP**)

COURSE FORMAT/ TEACHING STRATEGIES

This class is offered in a 100% online format. Coursework includes completing assigned readings, researching, completing written assignments, participating in regular on-line forums.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course presents the basic principles and methods of social science research. Students are introduced to techniques for critical analysis of the professional practice literature and how, as consumers, they can incorporate research findings into practice. Students also acquire knowledge and skills for applying research with their social work practice as well as in the area of program evaluation. Students conceptualize research questions, determine appropriate designs and methodologies, and incorporate qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Professional values and ethics, as well as sensitivity to human diversity, are subsumed within the conduct of research.

Prerequisite: PSY/SWK 210, CRJ/HOS 214 or MAT 122.

CURRICULUM THEMES:

1. Social work is premised on recognition of the interconnectedness between personal and societal well-being.
2. Human dignity and social justice require a respect for human diversity and for the mutual rights and obligations between person and community.
3. The holistic problem-solving approach is the preferred instrument for planned change.

MARIAN UNIVERISTY CORE VALUES:

This course incorporates Marian University's commitment to the following core values:

1. **COMMUNITY:** Respecting our diversity as individuals, we encourage, challenge and nurture one another, joining together to accomplish our shared mission and vision.
2. **LEARNING:** We engage in a collaborative lifelong process of seeking truth and appropriating knowledge and values to transform the individual, our communities and the world.
3. **SERVICE:** Through active service and ministry, we support one another and seek to meet the needs of the larger community.
4. **SOCIAL JUSTICE:** We work to create individual and societal change, which supports the value, dignity and opportunity of every person.
5. **SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS:** Valuing Marian's Catholic religious heritage, we respect each individual's freedom to explore a diversity of spiritual beliefs.

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION COMPETENCIES

This course is designed to prepare students for development of the social work competencies identified through the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (Council on Social Work Education Commission on Accreditation, 2015). The 9 competencies are as follows:

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior	Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 2: Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice	Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 3: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice	Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice	Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
Competency 5: Engage in Policy Practice	

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

These Student Learning Outcomes are in accord with the foundation program objectives (competencies) found in the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) (Council on Social Work Education Commission on Accreditation, 2015). Upon completion of the course students should have the ability to:

1. Formulate answerable evidence-based practice research questions (Competency 4)
2. Evaluate practice interventions through the framework of implementation-translational research (Competency 9)
3. Critically appraise sources of scientific evidence, explain how the criteria for that appraisal vary depending upon the purpose of the research, and be conscious of human diversity and consider its implication when designing or evaluating research. (Competency 2, 7 & 9)
4. Define basic qualitative and quantitative research concepts and describe the basic principles of causal inference and their relationship to the various types of research designs (Competency 4)
5. Analyze ethical issues in the socio-cultural contexts of research, particularly as these issues relate to populations-at-risk (Competency 1, 2 & 8)

COURSE POLICIES:

Class Participation/Discussions:

The online activities are designed for class participants to interact. Participation is important for learning and professional growth. Participation is defined as:

- Completing all activities assigned in a timely manner
- Sharing ideas and giving examples in class discussions
- Being respectful of other's opinions and responding in a nonjudgmental manner
- Embracing diversity and demonstrating critical thinking
- Posting well thought out and meaningful responses

Weekly attendance will be taken based on the student's completion of the assigned discussions, assignments, and exams that are required for that week.

Class Deadlines:

Online discussions will be required for this course, which works best if you log in several times during the week. These online discussions may have different timelines. It will work out best if you log in early in the week and then again between Wednesday and Friday.

Classroom and Campus Expectations:

Students are encouraged to maximize their learning experience at Marian University. Ideal learning takes place in an environment where trust, mutual respect and active engagement are valued and observed by all participants.

Students at Marian University are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a professional setting. Students are expected to be respectful of the learning environment established by the instructor. No student has the right to be disruptive, disrespectful or uncivil in their conduct – including language – in any setting at Marian University, including online, Facebook, and other web-based venues.

A student who the instructor believes is acting inappropriately in the classroom may be asked to leave the class for a session or longer or may be administratively withdrawn by University officials.

Netiquette (Online Etiquette):

In an online environment, it is not possible for others to read your body language, tone of voice, or facial expressions. Here are some basic rules that should be followed during online discussion board sessions.

1. Change the title of your message to reflect what your thoughts are. Do not auto-reply and start a new thread with the old subject line in the header
2. Always check your spelling and grammar before posting your work
3. Keep your questions and comments relative to the discussion board. If you have an off topic question, ask it privately in an email

4. Do not use ALL CAPS. It gives the impression of shouting.
5. Keep paragraphs short and to the point. Make sure they add something to the discussion.
6. Cite any quotes or references that are not original thought
7. Treat other people and points of view politely and respectfully. Never post anything you would not say to your reader's face. Adhere to the same standards of behavior online as you would in real life.
8. Do not get offended easily. Do not write a response while you are angry. Take a break, collect your thoughts, and write a well-supported rebuttal.
9. Do not "flame" others. Sarcasm does not interpret well in an online forum.
10. Do not post Spam or Advertisements to the discussion board.

Adapted from

http://www.cgspitt.org/medialibrary/File/Tips_For_Success/TipsforSuccess_Netiquette.pdf

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The rules and procedures dealing with academic honesty set forth in the Marian University Academic Bulletin will be followed in this class. Students are expected to have familiarized themselves with these rules and procedures. This applies to cheating, plagiarism and intentional misrepresentation of the truth. If a paper is prepared by a student for this class, it is expected that the paper will be the student's own work and that any use of the work of another in a student's paper be properly quoted and cited.

STATEMENT OF ACCESSABILITY RESOURCES:

Marian University will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities. If you feel you need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact Lisa Olig, Director for Accessibility Resources, at 920-923-8951.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Evaluation Methods:

- 1. Course Participation & Attendance100 pts
- 2. Discussion Post.....150 pts
- 3. Cengage Assignments.....100 pts
- 4. Proposal Assignments.....100 pts
- 5. Exams.....300 pts

TOTAL: 750 pts

Exams:

You will have 3 exams in this course. These exams will be worth 100 pts.

Course Participation:

Students are required to be actively engaged in class discussions and class exercises. Students are encouraged to bring outside readings or current events to class discussions. Since this course is an upper-level course, you are expected to be attentive and interactive. As noted under the attendance policy: Attending class is particularly important. Students are responsible for all materials assigned.

Research Proposal:

Since we do not have sufficient time to do an actual research project, you will instead work on a project that will contain some of the components of an actual research project and sections of this project will be due throughout the class so that you will be able to complete the project on time.

Incompletes/Late work/Extensions:

Incompletes are not granted in this course. All assignments must be completed in order to pass this course. **Late work will not be accepted.** Extensions may be provided at the discretion of the professor. If you are provided an extension, the assignment will be due no later than 3 days from the date the extension was given. No exceptions will be made. **In social work practice and any helping profession, deadlines are critical to the work we do.**

Assignment Crosswalk with CSWE Competencies and Student Learning Outcomes

Assignment/activity	CSWE corresponding competency	Student Learning Outcome	Total Points Possible
Exams	1-4, 7 & 9	2-5	300
Online Learning Forum I: Discussion Post	1-9	2,3 & 5	150

Online Learning Forum II: Cengage Assignments	1, 2 4-9	2 & 3	100
Proposal Assignments	1-9	1-5	200

Grading Breakdown:

PERCENTAGES & GRADES				
100 – 93 = A	89 – 87 = B+	79 – 77 = C+	69 – 67 = D+	59 or less = F
92 – 90 = A-	86 – 83 = B	76 – 73 = C	66 – 63 = D	
	82 – 80 = B-	72 – 70 = C-	62 – 60 = D-	

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as needed to reflect the curriculum themes, student learning outcomes, and assignments required. A college level course should be a “living, breathing,” developing, and collaborative venture.

Schedule & Topical Outline:

NOTE- The instructor of the course reserves the right to modify this syllabus as needed to reflect the curriculum themes, course objectives, assignments required, and the needs of the students.

Topic 1: (July 5-11)

- I. Syllabus Review
- II. Chapt. 1: Why Research
- III. Chapt. 2: Evidence Based-Practice
- IV. Discussion Question

Topic 2: (July 12-18)

- I. Chapt. 3: Qualitative, Quantitative, & Mixed Methods
- II. Chapt. 4: Factors in Research
- III. Discussion Post

Topic 3: (July 19-25)

- I. Exam #1 (**Open Monday July 19th Closes Friday July 23rd**)
- II. Chapt. 5: Ethics In Research
- III. Discussion Post

Topic 4: (July 26-Aug.1)

- I. Chapt. 6: Cultural Competent Research
- II. Chapt. 7: Problem Formulation
- III. Discussion Post

Topic 5: (Aug. 2-8)

- I. Exam #2 – Chapt. 5, 6, 7 & 8 (**Open Monday Aug. 2 Closes Sunday Aug. 13th**)
- II. Chapt. 8: Measurement in Quali, & Quanti Research
- III. Chapt. 10: Surveys
- IV. Discussion Post

Topic 6: (Aug. 9-15)

- I. Chapt. 11: Sampling
- II. Discussion Posts

Topic 7: (Aug. 16-22)

- I. Exam #3 – Chapt. 10, 11, & 14 (**Open Monday Aug. 16th Closes Saturday Aug. 21st**)
- II. Chapt. 14: Program Evaluation
- III. Discussion Post

A Partial List of Professional Literature Journals Available through Marian's Library

International Social Work	Journal of Social Work
Research on Social Work Practice	AFFILIA: Journal of Women and Social Work
Qualitative Social Work	Journal of Aging and Health
Journal of Applied Gerontology	Research on Aging
Journal of Adolescent Research	The Journal of Early Adolescence
Journal of Family History	Journal of Family Issues
Gender & Society	Small Group Research
Child Maltreatment	Journal of Interpersonal Violence
Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment	Trauma, Violence, & Abuse
Violence Against Women	Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice
Assessment	Assessment for Effective Intervention
Autism	Behavior Modification
Counseling Outcome Research and Evaluation	The Family Journal
Group Processes & Intergroup Relations	Health Education & Behavior
Journal of Adolescent Research	Journal of Attention Disorders
The Journal of Social and Personal and Evaluation	Journal of Health & Social Behavior
Advances in social work	Child & Family Social Work
Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work	Social Work with Groups
Health and Social Work	Social Work
Social work in education	Social work research
Social work research & abstracts	Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research
Social Policy	Social Problems

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