

SW625, Capstone II, Spring, 2018

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

**SW 625 – Capstone II
3 credit hours
Spring, 2018**

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Class Time: Monday, 6:30 p.m. (EST/EDT)

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AND COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK POLICIES

Code of Conduct

It is the student's responsibility to have read the College of Social Work Ethical Academic and Professional Conduct Code that is in the College of Social Work DSW Handbook (<http://www.csw.utk.edu/docs/DSWHandbook.pdf>).

The Honor Statement

An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity. (*Hilltopics*).

University Civility Statement

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>

Disability

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability or if you have emergency information to share, please contact The University of Tennessee's Office of Student Disability Services at 100 Dunford Hall (865) 974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

Dimensions of Diversity

The College of Social Work and the University of Tennessee welcome and honor all people. In accordance with the U.S. National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the U.S. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE 2015 Educational Policy Statement), "the dimensions of

diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including” age, class, color, culture, mental or physical disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, immigration status, marital status, national origin, political ideology, race, regionality, religion and spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status. The College values intellectual curiosity, pursuit of knowledge, and academic freedom and integrity. “A person’s diverse life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim” (CSWE 2015 Educational Policy Statement). The College of Social Work promotes social justice and social change, and strives to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice.

Plagiarism

It is assumed that all of your work is original for every assignment, including papers, discussion board postings, and quizzes, and that you are aware of appropriate citation rules. If you are not *completely* familiar with citation rules, please review them at the UT Library web site: <http://writingcenter.utk.edu/for-students/citingsources/>. Please be aware that copying material verbatim from journal articles, books or websites is considered plagiarism unless it is appropriately cited as verbatim material. The Graduate School of the University of Tennessee now requires that Capstone II papers be scanned by the *iThenticate* plagiarism detection program. Capstone Chairs will certify that this step has been completed prior to the defense.

Right to Privacy

We acknowledge students’ right to privacy. Therefore, when dealing with personal information either in class or in an assignment, share only to the level at which you are comfortable.

Course Description

This course focuses on the completion of the Capstone II project. This involves the preparation of a publishable paper reporting the results of the student's clinical research study. The student must defend his/her paper at an oral defense with the student's Capstone II Committee

Course Rationale

An important skill for the advanced social work practitioner is the ability to identify an important question about social work practice and then design and implement a research project to answer this question, or test a specific hypothesis about this question; and then write the results for possible publication. This capstone course is designed to help the student develop these skills.

Student Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, students are expected to have: (1) conducted a research project approved by her or his Capstone II Committee; (2) completed an analysis of the data from this research project; (3) written a publishable paper describing this research project, the data analysis done for the project, the results of the data analysis, and the implications of the results; and (4) successfully defended the Capstone II research with the Capstone II Committee.

Learning Environment

In this class the student is a co-creator of the learning experience and environment. It is the purpose of this class to provide knowledge and access to resources that will serve as a springboard for class collaboration and group interaction.

Information Literacy/Technological Resources

This course will be conducted synchronously online using Zoom Videoconferencing and asynchronously with materials on the Canvas course site. Students must have a working knowledge of all aspects of Canvas, particularly accessing assignments and learning resources, viewing PowerPoint presentations, submission of assignments, and utilizing Zoom for communication with the instructors and other students.

For your convenience, the Zoom link will be available 15 minutes before the listed start time and class will begin promptly 7 p.m., Eastern. Zoom sessions will be recorded and accessible on a YouTube playlist link on Canvas. Plan to be available for Zoom sessions from a quiet location. Attempting to attend class while driving, in an airport or other public setting creates a distracting environment for the student and for the other members of the class.

Electronic Device Policy: It is not appropriate and is distracting to surf the Internet, check your email, etc., while in class. All phones should be silenced and put away during class and text messaging is strictly prohibited. If you have a special circumstance, talk to the instructor in advance.

Electronic Classroom Policy: This is a doctoral level course and as such students are required to attend and be fully present for every synchronous course session. This means students are expected to participate in class sessions using a video link into the electronic classroom from a non-distracting location. Joining class via audio connection (e.g. phone) will be considered an absence unless the student notifies the professors in advance of the unavoidable exigency necessitating audio-only attendance. Such an event is an exception and not a permissible alternative to full attendance and participation through Zoom videoconferencing.

Extensions of time for an assignment due to medical or personal emergencies are made at the discretion of the instructors. A student seeking an extension should consult with the instructors *in advance*. Technical difficulties are not an acceptable excuse for turning late assignments.

Technical inquiries should be directed to the OIT helpdesk.

Optional Textbook

Lester, J.D. & Lester, J.D. Jr. (2014). *Writing research papers: A complete guide (15th ed.)*. London, UK: Pearson.

Can be purchased online at Amazon as a paper-based version or as an electronic version.

Grading Scale for SW625

- A (97-100) - Superior/exceptional; exceeds course expectations
- A- (93-99) - Excellent; almost always exceeds course expectations
- B+ (90 to 92) Very good; mostly exceeds course expectations
- B (85-89) - Good; consistently meets expectations for the course
- C+ (80 - 84) - Average; grasp of material is uneven; inconsistently meets course expectations
- C (70-79) - Poor; Student does not grasp material; often fails to meet course expectations
- F (69 and below) – Very poor; expectations for the course are not met

Final Grade: Your final grade in this class will be on (1) success defense of your Capstone II project, (2) the quality of your Capstone II paper and your Three Minute Thesis video. The final grade will be determined by the course instructors, with input from members of the Capstone II Committee. For this reason, it will be important for you to work closely with the members of your Capstone II Committee and make every attempt to make the revisions to your Capstone II paper requested by Committee members in a timely manner.

ASSIGNMENTS

The Capstone II Paper

The Capstone II research paper should be in APA style and in the range of 20 – 30 pages, as this is the length of manuscripts commonly submitted to peer- reviewed journals. The paper should follow approximately the format below. The actual formatting will be determined in collaboration with the Capstone II Committee. The format suggested below will serve as a starting point. Examples of written research manuscripts/articles, and of each sub-section of these articles, will be discussed in detail during synchronous class sessions at the beginning of the semester.

Introduction^[SEP]The introduction should contain a statement of the biopsychosocial problem and population of clients of focus. It can also include a brief description of such relevant details as the prevalence of the biopsychosocial problem in the population of interest.

Literature Review^[SEP]This section should provide a brief review of literature relevant to the research questions and/or hypotheses investigated in the Capstone II research project. The literature review usually leads to a statement of the gaps in the literature, and in the current state-of-the- research, that the Capstone II research addresses. It also frequently ends with a statement of the research questions and/or hypotheses investigated in the research.

Research Methodology^[SEP]This section of the paper should describe in detail the methodology used in your Capstone II research project. This section typically will include sub-sections on: Sampling; measurement; research design; and data analysis methods

Results This section of the paper presents in detail the results of your research. This section of a research paper typically includes sub-sections on: Sample characteristics; results relevant for measurement, including any data analysis results relevant for reliability and validity of the scores obtained from measures used in the research; and results of data analyses, with results organized by research questions and/or hypotheses. The presentations of results frequently include tables and figures (such as graphs) that present results.

Discussion, Recommendations for Future Research, Conclusion This section commonly includes consideration of strengths and limitations of the research; implications of the results for the research questions and/or hypotheses that guided the research and on which the research focused; and implications of the results for future research, for social work practice, and for social policy. It is important to note that all recommendations must be linked to specific research results. This section is NOT an opportunity for the author of the paper to editorialize.

References There should be a reference list formatted in APA-6 style.

Three Minute Thesis Video (3MT)

Students are to create a 3MT video on their Capstone II research either before or after the Capstone II defense. The purpose of this assignment is to help you develop and solidify your ability to effectively communicate the focus, findings, and significance of your Capstone II research project. The University of Tennessee-Knoxville and other major universities across the world are developing these competitions.

[Three Minute Thesis \(3MT™\)](#) is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland, Australia in 2008. The premise of the competition is to develop academic, presentation, and research communication skills. It supports the development of students' capacities to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. Doctoral students have three minutes to present compelling orations on their dissertation topics and their significance. 3MT™ is not an exercise in "watering down" research but forces students to consolidate ideas and concisely explain their research discoveries.

Rules

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations, or movement of any type; the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
- No additional electronic media (e.g., sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to three minutes maximum, and competitors exceeding three minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps, or songs).
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts his/her presentation through movement or speech.

- **3MT Videos are due to be presented in class on April 9, 2018**

DUE DATES

First draft of complete paper. An initial draft of the entire paper is due to the course instructors and Capstone II Committee members by *March 5, 2018*. At this point in the term you should be working closely with your Committee members on making needed changes to the paper. This will give Committee members sufficient time to read the paper, get feedback to you, and allow sufficient time for you to do revisions needed to prepare the paper for defense and to complete the defense.

Defense of Capstone II Project. You must schedule a defense time with Sarah Browning (865-974-6481) *no later than March 19, 2018 and you must defend your Capstone II by April 6, 2018*. The defense of the Capstone II project must be completed satisfactorily, and the signed pass/fail form in Sarah Browning's hands, no later *than 1:00 p.m. (EDT) on April 10, 2018*. The pass/fail form from the defense must be in to the Graduate School by *April 13, 2018*. These dates are critical! Make sure all members of your Capstone II Committee are aware of these critical deadlines!

Scheduling Capstone II Defense date. You should schedule a tentative Capstone II defense data as soon as possible. ***DO NOT WAIT UNTIL LATE MARCH OR TO TRY AND SCHEDULE YOUR DEFENSE!!***

COURSE OUTLINE

Classes: Monday 7 p.m., EST/EDT	Topic	Assignments/Activities
<p>January 9, 2018 Zoom <i>Contact course instructors to schedule individual meetings about your project.</i></p>	<p>Overview of course, of Capstone II paper, the Capstone II Defense, and important due dates.</p> <p>Linking your research to the Social Work Grand Challenges</p>	<p>Dr. Nugent and Dr. Herron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Syllabus Review (and key deadlines) ➔ Structure of the Capstone II Paper <p>Review the 12 Social Work Grand Challenges and consider which one is most closely aligned with your research. http://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative/</p> <p>Read and be prepared to ask question and discuss the sample research papers (Jones, Ahn & Chan, 2016; Powell & Thompson, 2016) posted on Canvas. The focus of discussion of these two papers will be on the general structure, subsections, and logic of presentation. We will go over them a second time in a subsequent class in terms of important methodological elements.</p> <p>Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper.</p>
<p>January 15, 2018 No Class Meeting <i>Contact course instructors to schedule individual meetings about your project.</i></p>	<p><i>MLK Holiday Today</i></p>	<p>Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper.</p>
<p>January 22, 2018 Zoom <i>Contact course instructors to schedule individual meetings about your project.</i></p>	<p>Review of important methodology and statistical concepts, research designs, statistical methods, and SPSS.</p>	<p>Dr. Nugent</p> <p>Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper.</p>

<p>January 29, 2018 Zoom</p> <p><i>Contact course instructors to schedule meetings about your project.</i></p>	<p>Re-read and prepare to discuss and ask questions about the sample research papers posted on Canvas (discussed in a previous class from the perspective of format/structure). This time the discussion will focus on important methodological content in the papers, important components of the results, and how the concluding sections are written.</p>	<p>Dr. Herron and Dr. Nugent</p> <p>➔ De-construction of methodological components of the Jones et al. (2016) and Powell et al. (2016) research articles</p> <p>Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper.</p>
<p>February 5, 2018 Zoom</p> <p><i>Contact course instructors to schedule meetings about your project.</i></p>	<p>Use of SPSS for data analysis. You need to have downloaded SPSS onto your desktop or laptop so you can begin practicing use of this statistics program.</p>	<p>Dr. Nugent</p> <p>Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper.</p>

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<p>February 12, 2018 Zoom <i>Contact course instructors to schedule meetings about your project.</i></p>	<p>How to prepare for your Capstone II defense; how to publish the written research manuscript.</p>	<p>Dr. Herron and Dr. Nugent Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper. → First draft of first three sections of Capstone II paper due.</p>
<p>February 19, 2018 No class session <i>Contact course instructors to schedule meetings about your project.</i></p>		<p>Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper.</p>
<p>February 26, 2018 No class session <i>Contact course instructors to schedule meetings about your project.</i></p>		<p>Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper.</p>
<p>March 5, 2018 No class session <i>Contact course instructors to schedule meetings about your project.</i></p>		<p>→ An initial draft of the entire paper is due to the course instructors and Capstone II Committee members Assignment: Work on Capstone II project/paper.</p>
<p>March 12, 2018</p>	<p>Spring Break Week</p>	
<p>March 19, 2018 No class session</p>		<p>Capstone II Defenses in Progress</p>
<p>March 27, 2017 No class session</p>		<p>Capstone II Defenses in Progress</p>
<p>April 2, 2018 No class session</p>		<p>Capstone II defenses in Progress <i>All defenses must be complete by April 6, 2018</i></p>
<p>April 9, 2018 Zoom</p>	<p>3MT Competition</p>	<p>Students are to create and present a 3MT video on their Capstone II research during class</p>