

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

**SW506 –SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH**

Course Outline  
Fall 2006

Room: 234  
Credits: 3  
Office hours: Wed. 12-1 pm  
or by appointment

Instructor: Cindy Davis, Ph.D.  
Office: Room 270  
Email: [cdavis3@utk.edu](mailto:cdavis3@utk.edu)  
Telephone: 256-1885

### **Required Texts**

Grinnell, R.M. and Unrau, Y.A. (2005). Social Research and Evaluation: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock.

Weinbach, R.W. & Grinnell, R.M. (2007). Statistics for Social Workers (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York: Longman.

### **Optional Supplementary Texts**

Rubin, A. & Babbie, E. (1993). Research Methods for Social Work (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Kirpatrick L.A. & Feeney, B.C. (2002). A Simple Guide to SPSS for Windows: for Versions 11.0 (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

### **Course Requirements**

Class session will be used to clarify and expand on assigned course readings. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Class participation is expected and the instructor reserves the right to give some weight, positive or negative, to classroom participation. Students are also expected to attend all classes. Except in the case of a medical or personal emergency, a student who wishes an extension of time for a written assignment should consult the instructor in advance. However, an extension is not automatic and there may be a grade penalty (except in the case of an emergency).

### **Evaluation Procedures and Grades**

The following scale will be used for the final course grade:

**A (95-100)** Outstanding/Superior. Student consistently exceed expectations.

**B+ (90-94)** Above Average. Student consistently meets, and occasionally exceeds, normal expectations for the course.

**B (85-89)** Average. Student consistently meets normal expectations for the course.

**C+ (80-84)** Below Average. There is unevenness in grasping course content. Student is inconsistent in meeting normal expectations for the course.

**C (70-79)** Poor. There is lack of understanding of course content. Student does not meet course expectations.

**F (69-Below)** Very Poor. Course expectations are not met. There is a lack of attendance or incomplete assignments.

Assignments:

Quizzes (4 quizzes at 10% each)	40%
Research paper	30%
Article critique	20%
Computer lab homework	<u>10%</u>
Total:	100%

*Research paper:* All students are required to complete a quantitative research proposal which includes: an introduction section, methods section (e.g., hypothesis, sample selection, research design, instruments, procedures, ethical considerations/procedures, etc.), data analysis plan, discussion section, and budget. Papers must be typed, double spaced and conform to APA format. Papers should be no longer than 15 pages (excluding references and appendices).

*Article critique:* The course includes a critical analysis of a research article provided by the instructor. The critique will include the appropriateness of the literature review, methods, ethical considerations, data analysis, and interpretation of results.

*Computer lab exercises:* The course includes a series of computer lab exercises to provide hands-on experience with computer data management and analysis. These exercises involve the use of specific statistical procedures on a data set provided by the instructor.

## Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments
1	8/23	Course overview, assignments, student expectations, ethical issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grinnell, # 1, 2, 3, 5, 6</li> <li>• Edmands, M.S. (1986). Overcoming eating disorders. <i>Journal of Psychosocial Nursing</i>, 24,8, 19-25.</li> <li>• Schneider, J.A. &amp; Agras, S. (1985). A cognitive-behavioral group treatment of bulimia. <i>British Journal of Psychiatry</i>, 146, 66-69.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Page</li> <li>• Discussion Board</li> </ul>
2	8/30	Library Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet in computer lab</li> </ul>	
3	9/6	Literature review & problem formulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grinnell, # 4, 7</li> <li>• Davis, C. (2004). Hospital social work: Are we conducting the right type of research? <i>Social Work in Health Care</i>, 38,3, 67-79.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz #1</li> </ul>
4	9/13	Measurement & Sampling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grinnell, # 8, 9, 10, 11</li> <li>• * First, R.J., Roth, D. &amp; Arewa, B.D. (1988). Homelessness: Understanding the dimensions of the problem for minorities. <i>Social Work</i>, 33, 120-124.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-class research article critique *</li> </ul>
5	9/20	Research designs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grinnell, # 12, 13, 17</li> <li>• Proctor, E.K. (2004). The search for social work treatments of choice: What interventions work better than others? <i>Social Work Research</i>, 28, 2, 67-69.</li> <li>• Reid, W.J., Kenaley, B.D. &amp; Colvin, J. (2004). Do some interventions work better than others? A review of comparative social work experiments. <i>Social Work Research</i>, 28, 2, 71-81.</li> <li>• *Sieber, D.C. (2004). Depression in North Carolina social workers: Implications for practice and research. <i>Social Work Research</i>, 28,1, 30-40.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-class research article critique *</li> </ul>
6	9/27	Qualitative methods & Program evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grinnell, # 26, 27, 28, 29</li> <li>• Yoshihama, M. (2002). Breaking the web of abuse and silence: Voices of battered women in Japan. <i>Social Work</i>, 47,4, 389-400.</li> <li>• **Morton, M., Nelson, L., Walsh, C., Zimmerman, S. &amp; Coe, R.M. (1996). Evaluation of a HIV/AIDS Education program for adolescents. <i>Journal of</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz # 2</li> <li>• Research Article Critique Due **</li> </ul>

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Community Health, 21, 23-35.

7	10/4	ONLINE CLASS - Writing a research paper – APA style <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grinnell, # 24, 25</li></ul>	
8	10/11	Principles of data analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 1,5,6</li></ul>	• Research Paper Due
9	10/18	Descriptive statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 2, 3, 4</li><li>• LeCroy, C.W. &amp; Stinson, E.L. (2004). The public's perception of social work: Is it what we think it is? <u>Social Work, 49,2, 164-174.</u></li></ul>	• Quiz # 3 • Homework #1
10	10/25	Inferential statistics – Chi square <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 10</li></ul>	• Homework #2
11	11/1	Inferential statistics – Correlation & Regression <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 8, 9</li><li>• Davis, C., Tang, C. &amp; Ko, J. (1998). Exploring current behaviors and social service needs for Chinese juvenile delinquents in Hong Kong. <u>Children and Youth Services Review, 20,8, 733-745.</u></li></ul>	• Homework #3
12	11/8	Inferential statistics – t-tests and ANOVA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 11</li><li>• Letteney, S. &amp; LaPorte, H.H. (2004). Deconstructing stigma: Perceptions of HIV-Seropositive mothers and their disclosure to children. <u>Social Work in Health Care, 38,3, 105-123.</u></li></ul>	• Homework #4
13	11/15	Statistics – Putting it all together <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 7</li></ul>	• Quiz # 4
14	11/22	Thanksgiving Break	
15	11/29	Course Review	• All lab homework assignments due

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## Supplemental References:

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Davis, C., Emerson, J.S. & Husaini, B.A. (2005). Breast cancer screening among African-American women: Adherence to current recommendations. Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, 16,2, 308-314.

Davis, C., Baldry, E., Milosevic, B. & Walsh, A. (2005). Defining the role of the hospital social worker in Australia: Part II. A Qualitative Analysis. International Social Work Journal, 48,3, 285-295.

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