

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

**SW506 -Social Work Research**

Course Outline

Spring 2006

**Section 02- Spring 2006 Monday 9:05 - 12:05**

*Henson Hall Rm. - 311*

*David A. Patterson, Ph.D.*

*Rm. 224 Henson Hall*

*974-3351 or 974-7511*

*Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons or by appointment*

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**THIS COURSE OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS**

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Kreuger, L. W. & Neuman W. L. (2006) Social Work Research with Research Navigator. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Patterson, D. A. (2006) Data Analysis with Spreadsheets. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are expected to:

1. Arrive on time and attend all class sessions,
2. Participate in class discussion and exercises,
3. Complete all assignments on time,
4. Complete all examinations.

**EVALUATION**

ASSIGNMENT PERCENT OF GRADE DUE DATE

Research Paper

Draft (Optional) April 17th

Final 16.67 April 24th

Computer Assignments(4) 16.67 See Course Outline

Four Exams 16.67

**Total 100**

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

### GROUP RESEARCH PAPER

For this assignment, you will form a research team with two or three of your classmates. Research teams should be no larger than four people. As a team you will design, carry out, and report on your research project. Data for the study can be drawn from a team member's field placement or from a survey conducted with classmates. If you elect to use data from a field placement, you must have written permission from your field supervisor and use no patient identifying information. Class surveys must have an attached research consent form and must not request any participant identifying information.

LENGTH: 15-20 pages (excluding references, of which there should be 12-15), typed and double-spaced.

TOPIC: Choose a research question related to social work practice which is narrow in focus; one which the literature indicates is in need of further study.

GRADING: The research team paper will be graded on the basis of clarity, specificity, quality of writing, and the demonstration and integration of sound research knowledge.

ORGANIZATION: The paper should include at least six sections.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Introduce the reader to the research topic assuming he/she knows nothing about the topic. Explain what you hope to accomplish in this paper and why. Finally, state why this endeavor is an important contribution to the literature of social work practice.

#### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Briefly summarize the findings and the implications of relevant research found in the literature.

#### 3. STATEMENT PROBLEM

Discuss how this research relates to the literature. State the research question(s). List all relevant hypotheses.

#### 4. METHODOLOGY

Introduce the methodology used to investigate this research question and statistical techniques the team selected to analyze the data. Include: research design, sampling technique, population characteristics, data collection methods, validity, reliability, etc.

#### 5. RESULTS

Present the results of the team's statistical analysis of the research findings.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

Discuss the findings as they relate to the social work literature, social work practice/education, and the field placement setting from which the data were drawn.

#### 7. LIMITATIONS TO THE STUDY

Discuss the limitations of the study that result from the limitations of the research design and the restrictions associated with social work research.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

Include a discussion of the implications for practice and further research. Discussion the direction for future research in this area.

## EXTRA CREDIT

Group Research Projects will be awarded an extra 5 percent credit if the major points of the paper are presented in class as a PowerPoint presentation and published on a web site.

## COMPUTER ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be required to complete four small computer assignments to demonstrate proficiency in the use of spreadsheets for data analysis. These assignments will be graded as satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

Assignment number one requires the creation of a data set within a spreadsheet.

Assignment number two requires using the spreadsheet to compute descriptive statistics and frequency distributions on variables in the data set created in the first assignment.

Assignment number three requires using of a spreadsheet to conduct an analysis of the relationship between two variables in your data set through use of the Chi-square statistic and the Pearson's correlation coefficient.

Assignment number four requires use of a spreadsheet to conduct an analysis of the relationship between variables in your data set using the t-statistic (independent and dependent) and an ANOVA.

Your course instructor will give specific details on these assignments as they come due.

## COURSE TOPICS AND SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC ASSIGNED	READINGS
01/23/06	Course Introduction, Introduction into Inquiry, The role, history, and current status of research in social work theory and practice	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 1 Patterson & Basham, Chap 1.
01/30/06	Scientific Inquiry and Social Work - Philosophical Issues in Science and Research	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 2, 3, & 4
02/06/06	Ethics and Politics of Social Work Research - Theory and research	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 5
02/13/06	Problem Formulation - Conceptualization and Operation	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 6
<b>1st Test</b> 02/20/06	Measurement - Data Collection Ways and Means	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 7 Patterson & Basham, Chap. 2
02/27/06	The Logic of sampling - Selecting Samples	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 8 Patterson Chap. 3

03/06/06		
<b>1st Assignment due</b>	Causal Inference - Experimental Research	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 9
3/13/06	Systematic Evaluation of Practice - Single Subject Designs	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 14 Patterson & Basham, Chap. 10
3/20/06	Spring Break!	
<b>2nd Test</b> 3/27/06	Survey Research - Nonreactive Research and Available Data	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 10 & 11
4/3/06		
2nd Assignment due	Data Cleaning -Interpretation and computation of basic descriptive statistics with spreadsheets	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 12 Patterson & Basham, Chap. 4, 5, 6, 8
4/10/06	Field Research - Qualitative Data	Kreuger & Lawrence, Chap. 13 & 15
<b>3rd Test</b> 4/17/06		
<b>3rd Assignment due</b>	Bivariate Data Analysis -Tabular and Graphic	Patterson & Basham, Chap. 8 & 9
4/24/06		
<b>4th Assignment due</b>	Inferential Data Analysis - Presentation of Data	Patterson & Basham, Chap. 11 & 12
5/3/06		
<b>Group Research Projects due</b>	Groups Present Their Research Findings	
5/10/06		
<b>4th Test</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	