

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

**SW506 – Social Work Research**

Course Outline

Spring Semester 2006

Room: 306

Credits: 3

Class Meetings: Monday 9:05-12:05

Wednesday 9:05-12:05

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:30

Wednesday 1:00-2:30

Instructor: Dr. John Wodarski

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**REQUIRED TEXT**

The Structure of Scientific Revolutions 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, T.S. Kuhn, University of Chicago Press, 1970  
Research Methods; Clinical Social Worker: Empirical Practice, J.S. Wodarski, Springer, 1997  
Adolescent Substance Abuse, J.S. Wodarski & M.D. Feit, The Haworth Press, 1995.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Class session-will be used to clarify and expand on assigned 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 emergency).

1. Class attendance is mandatory.
2. 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).
3. Review chapter: student will update and put in final form a chapter from Handbook of Child Welfare Research and receive authorship in edited text (first draft due fourth week of class; final draft due April 15). Double check all references for accuracy and inclusion in bibliography. Completed form must be submitted in two forms, as a hard copy and on floppy disk in MSWord format.
4. Text critique: According to critique in Wodarski chapter 2 (5 page limit).

## EVALUATION

Attendance	10 Points
Research Paper	75 Points
Review Chapter	75 Points
Book Critique	50 Points
Research Exercise	100 Points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>50 Points</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>360 Points</b>

A = 330 – 360

B = 300 – 329

C = 270 – 299

D = 240 - 269

## OUTLINE OF TOPICS COVERED

1. Relationship between science and practice
2. Critique of traditional experimental evaluation
3. Special problems in the assessment of behavioral change and deterioration
4. Empirical bases of practice
5. Methodological issues in evaluative research
6. Requisites for the establishment of services
7. Implementation of change strategy, by whom, why, and how long
8. Organizational factors pertinent to the creation and evaluation of social work services
9. Baselines
10. Self-measure
11. Behavioral observations of client and worker
12. Designs for practice evaluation
13. Statistical evaluation procedures
14. Data requisites for competency-based agency practice
15. Documentation of practice research for publication
16. Practice research and its relationship to social policy

## CLASS READINGS

Wodarski 1997

1. Empirical Practice: An introduction.....1
2. Criteria for Choosing Knowledge and Assessing Empirical Intervention.....29
3. Transforming Behavioral Science Knowledge into Practice Generalization .....39
4. Choice-of-Outcome Measures and Means of Assessment.....72
5. Designs for Daily Practice Evaluation.....107
6. Traditional Designs.....127
7. Application of Statistical Techniques in the Evaluation of Practice .....140
8. Advanced Statistical Techniques in Social Work Research  
*Eileen M. Lysaught and John Wodarski.....153*
9. Preparing Research.....166
10. Competency-Based Agency Practice.....182
11. Development of Management Information Systems for Human Services: A Practical Guide...205
12. Developing and Formulating Quality Proposals.....225
13. The Research Practitioner: The Formulation of Process and Educational Objectives.....234
14. Emerging Trends and Issues .....246

## RESEARCH LAB

**Session 1:** Video Exercise

**Session 2:** Video

**Session 3:** Research Report 1:

Gerald T. Moote, Nancy J. Smyth and John S. Wodarski, "Social Skills Training with Youth in School Settings: A Review," Research in Social Work Practice, 1999, 9, (4), 427-465.

**Session 4:** Research Report 2:

Lisa A. Rapp, Catherine N. Dulmus, John S. Wodarski and Marvin Feit, "Screening of Substance Abuse in Public Welfare and Child Protective Service Clients: A comparative Study of Rapid Assessment Instruments vs. The SASSI," Journal of Addictive Diseases, 1999, 18, (2) 83-88.

**Session 5:** Report, Book Critique

**Session 6:** Research Report 3:

Catherine Dulmus and John S. Wodarski, "Trauma-related Symptomatology Among Children of Parents Victimized by Urban Community Violence," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 2000, 70 (2), 272-277.

**Session 7:** Research Report 4:

Michael Sullivan and John S. Wodarski, "Rating College Students Substance Abuse: A Systematic Literature Review," Brief Treatment and Crisis Intervention, 2004, 4 (1), 71-91.

**Session 8:** Research Report 5:

Eileen M. Lysaught, John S. Wodarski and Heather Paris, "Normative Feed back: A Means to Reduce College Drinking," Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 2003, 8 (4), 23-43.

**Session 9:** Research Report 6 & 7

John S. Wodarski, Lois A. Wodarski and Heather Paris, "Teams-Games- Tournaments: Four Decades of Research," Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work: Advances in Practice, Programming, Research and Policy, 2004, 1 (1), 23-43

John S. Wodarski, Jeffery A. Giordano, Maurice Daniels and James A. Pippin, "Traditional MSW Students Compared with Extended MSW Degree Students: A Multi-Variable Analysis," Innovative Higher Education, 1988, 13 (1), 66-78

**Session 10:** Group Report

**Session 11:** Group Report

**Session 12:** Group Report

**Session 13:** Group Report

**Session 14:** Group Report

**RESEARCH WORK**

1. Question. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Type of Study. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Outcome Used. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Experimental Designs. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Statistical Analysis. \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Conclusions. \_\_\_\_\_

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