

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

**SW506 –SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH**

Course Outline  
Summer 2006

Room: 234  
Credits: 3  
Class Meetings: Tues 1:00 – 3:50  
Office hours: Tues. 4-5 or by appointment

Instructor: Edna Brown, Ph.D.  
Office: Room 262  
Email: [ebrown18@utk.edu](mailto:ebrown18@utk.edu)  
Telephone: 256-1885

**Required Texts**

Grinnell, R.M. & Unrau (2005). Social Research and Evaluation: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches (7<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York: Oxford.

Weinbach, R.W. & Grinnell, R.M. (2004). Statistics for Social Workers (6<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. A student who wishes an extension of time for an assignment due to medical or personal emergency should consult the instructor in advance. However, an extension is not automatic and there may be a grade penalty.

**Evaluation Procedures and Grades**

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

A (95-100) Outstanding/Superior.

Exceptional performance. Consistently exceed expectations.

B+ (90-94) Very Good.

Student consistently meets, and occasionally exceeds, normal expectations for the course.

B (80-89) Good.

Student consistently meets normal expectations for the course.

C+ (77-79) Average

There is unevenness in grasping course content. Student is inconsistent in meeting normal expectations for the course.

C (70-76) Poor

There is lack of understanding of course content. Student does not meet course expectations.

F (69-Below) Very Poor

There is a lack of attendance or incomplete assignments. Course expectations are not met.

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

Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments
6/6	Course Overview, Assignments & Ethical Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grinnell, # 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 &amp; 7</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>
6/13	Problem Formulation & Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grinnell, # 4</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>
6/13	Measurement & Sample <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grinnell, # 8, 9, 10 &amp; 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 critique</li></ul>

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6/20	Research Designs, Qualitative Methods & Program Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grinnell, # 12, 13, 17, 22, 27, 28 &amp; 29</li> <li>• Yoshihama, M. (2002). Breaking the web of abuse and silence: Voices of battered women in Japan. <u>Social Work</u>, 47,4, 389-400.</li> <li>• Proctor, E.K. (2004). The search for social work treatments of choice: What interventions work better than others? <u>Social Work Research</u>, 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. <u>Social Work Research</u>, 28, 2, 71-81.</li> <li>• Sieber, D.C. (2004). Depression in North Carolina social workers: Implications for practice and research. <u>Social Work Research</u>, 28,1, 30-40.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-class research critique</li> <li>• Quiz #2</li> </ul>
6/27	ONLINE CLASS: Writing a research paper – APA style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grinnell, # 24, 25</li> <li>• Morton, M., Nelson, L., Walsh, C., Zimmerman, S. &amp; Coe, R.M. (1996). Evaluation of a HIV/AIDS Education program for adolescents. <u>Journal of Community Health</u>, 21, 23-35.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Article Critique Due</li> </ul>
7/4	NO CLASS –HOLIDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
7/11	Principles of Data Analysis & Descriptive Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 1, 5 &amp; 6</li> <li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 2, 3 &amp; 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</u>, 49,2, 164-174.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Paper Due</li> <li>• Quiz #3</li> </ul>
7/18	Inferential Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 10</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</u>, 20,8, 733-745.</li> </ul>	
7/25	Inferential Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 8 &amp; 9</li> </ul>	
8/1	Inferential Statistics & Course Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weinbach &amp; Grinnell, # 11 &amp; 7</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</u>, 38,3, 105-123.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz # 4</li> <li>• All Lab Homework Due!</li> </ul>
8/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch-up and Wrap-up</li> </ul>	

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## Supplemental References:

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Cummings, S.M. & Cockerham, C. (2000). American Indians and aging. In P. Roberts (ed) Encyclopedia on Aging. pp. 68-71. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press.

Cummings, S.M. (1999). Adequacy of discharge plans and rehospitalization among hospitalized dementia patients. Health & Social Work, 24, 249-259.

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Davis, C., Salo, L. & Redman, S. (2001). Evaluating the effectiveness of advocacy training for breast cancer advocates in Australia. European Journal of Cancer Care, 10, 82-86.

Davis, C. & Tang, C. (1998). HIV and AIDS knowledge among high risk adolescents in Hong Kong: Implications of a prevention program. Journal of HIV/AIDS in Children and Adolescents. 2, 55-66.

Davis, C., Tang, C., Noel, M.B., & Chan, F. (1999). The development and validation of the International AIDS Questionnaire - Chinese Version. Education and Psychological Measurement, 59,3, 481-491.

DeCoster, V. A. (1999). The effects of gender and race on physician treatment of patient emotion. Journal of Gender, Culture, & Health, 4 (3): 215-237.

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DeCoster, V. A. (2001) The psychosocial challenges of type 2 diabetes and the roles of health care social work: A neglected area of practice. Health & Social Work, 26 (1): 26-37.

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Dulmus, C.N., & Wodarski, J.S. (2000). Trauma-related symptomatology among children of parents victimized by urban community violence. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 70 (2), 272-277.

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