

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

SW506 –SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH
Course Outline
Summer 2007

Tuesdays 9:00-12:00

Instructor: Samuel MacMaster, Ph.D.

Required Texts

Rubin, A. & Babbie, E. (2008). Research Methods for Social Work (2nd Ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Optional Supplementary Texts

Grinnell, R.M. (2005). Social Research and Evaluation: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches. Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock.

Weinbach, R.W. & Grinnell, R.M. (2004). Statistics for Social Workers (4th Ed.). New York: Longman.

Kirpatrick L.A. & Feeney, B.C. (2004). A Simple Guide to SPSS for Windows: for Versions 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0 (4th Ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Software Resource: Some students living some distance from Nashville (or who may anticipate using statistical software in the future) may wish to download SPSS for their home computer. This software (SPSS Graduate Student Package, Version 15.0 for Windows; approximately \$150) is also available at the TSU Bookstore, Main Campus.

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
B+	=	90-94
B	=	85-89
C+	=	80-84
C	=	70-79
F	=	69 and below

The following items will determine course grades:

Ethics Exercise	5%
Research paper	30%
Article Critique	15%
Computer lab exercises	20%
Final exam	30%

Ethics exercise: Each student will be required to complete an on-line ethics tutorial on protecting human subjects in research. The tutorial will be completed at home and a certificate will be required to show successful completion of the exercise on June 19th.

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. This paper should be written as if you were submitting a grant proposal for funding. 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: One of the goals of the course is to increase the proficiency of the use of the professional research literature. A series of article critiques will be completed in class throughout the semester to increase students' familiarity and level of comfort with research articles, and ultimately improving critical thinking skills. Students will be asked to read and analyze one of three research articles on their own in this assignment. The exercise involves the use of a specific set of criteria provided by the instructor. The article critique is due 7-24.

Computer lab exercises: The course includes a series of two 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. The computer assignments are due 7-31 and 8-7.

Final Exam: A multiple choice final exam covering the content of the entire course will be held on the last day of class, 8-7.

Course Outline

Class	Date	Topic/Readings
1	6-5	Course overview, assignments, student expectations R&B, # 1, 2, 3
2	6-12	Ethical issues and problem formulation R&B, # 4, 5 In-Class Group Article Critique
3	6-19	Literature review, Operationalization & measurement R&B, # 6,7, 8, 9 Principles & methods of sampling and survey research R&B, # 14, 15
4	6-26	Research designs R&B 10, 11, 12 In-Class Article Critique
5	7-3	Qualitative methods & Program evaluation R&B, # 16, 17, 18, 19, and 13 In-Class Article Critique
6	7-10	Principles of data analysis R&B, #20 In-Class Article Critique
7	7-17	No Class
8	7-24	Descriptive statistics R&B, #20 & 21 Article Critique Due
8	7-31	Inferential statistics R&B 21 & 22 Computer Assignment #1
9	8-7	Final Exam Computer Assignment #2 and Research Paper Due

Supplemental References:

Allen-Meares, P. & Dupper, D.R. (1998). A national study of knowledges, skills, and abilities: Curriculum development for practice in schools. Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 17, 101-119.

Allen, E., Combs-Orme, T., McCarter, R.J. & Grossman, L.S. (2000). Depressive symptoms in school age children entering foster care. Ambulatory Child Health, 6, 45-57.

Bloom, M, Fischer, J., & Orme, J. G. (1999). Evaluating practice: Guidelines for the accountable professional (3rd ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Bolden, A. J., Logan, H. L., Jakobsen, J. R., & Evans, T. A. (1994). Perception of Oral Health Needs by Southeast Iowa Non-Dental Health Care Providers, Special Care in Dentistry, 14,(5), 194-197.

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Cummings, S.M., Long, J., Peterson-Hazan, S., & Harrison, J. (1998). The efficacy of a group treatment model in helping spouses meet the emotional and practical challenges of early stage caregiving. Clinical Gerontologist, 20, 29-45.

Cummings, S.M., Kelly, K., Holland, T., & Peterson-Hazan, S. (1998). The development and field testing of a needs inventory for caregivers of hospitalized elders. Research in Social Work Practice, 8, 120-132.

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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.

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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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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.

- Dulmus, C.N., & Rapp-Palicci, L.A. (2000). The prevention of mental disorders in children and adolescents: Future research and public policy recommendations. Families in Society, 81 (3), 294-303.
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- Galambos, C. & Neal, C. (1998). Macro practice and policy in cyberspace: Teaching with computer simulation and the internet at the baccalaureate level. Computers in Human Services, 15, 2/3, 111-120.
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