Course Description: Student selected research on an issue of community-based clinical practice within the community.

The purpose of this course for students to critically analyze and demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and proficiency within the broad philosophical base of the social work profession. This is accomplished through as student-selected research project on a selected community-based clinical practice issue.

Learning objectives: By the end of this course, each student will be able to:
1. Integrate empirical and philosophical knowledge within the profession through the study and examination of a community-based clinical practice issue.
2. Identify and analyze the interplay of policy, theory, practice, research and values in professional social work through the self-selected research project.
3. Apply the research process and design in the completion of a research project that will include the clinical practice of social work, including the selection and application of an appropriate form of statistical analysis and the use of a computerized data analysis system (e.g. SPSS) as needed in the project.
4. Integrate diversity contents such as ethnic, gender, gay/lesbian, disability, and social justice content.
5. Apply the principles inherent in the protection of human subjects.
6. Critically evaluate research studies of relevance to social work and make decisions about application to community-based clinical practice in therapeutic and preventive programs.
7. Identify, describe and analyze research findings into a self-contained and well-organized research report.

Evaluation of learning and Grading:
1. Research project: Students are given a concrete experiencing in completing a quantitative or qualitative research project. Each student will be expected to formulate a research problem related to community based clinical practice with individuals, families, groups, and the environment, operationalize the problem, collect and analyze the data, and complete a final report of the project. The scope of the project must be sufficiently broad for the student to examine it from both a theoretical and an empirical perspective. A final report will be submitted that is 20 pages in length and written according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. While students can work jointly on projects, each student is responsible for writing an individual report. All projects must be approved by the faculty member.

Due Date: end of semester. (Final exam date)

1. **Outline for Integrative Clinical Research Project**
   A. Problem statement (what is the nature of the problem and why is it important)
   B. Review of relevant literature.
      - Literature pertaining to the problem: theory, research, and practice issues
      - (What do we currently know and what do we need to learn?)
C. Hypothesis and/or research questions
D. Methodology
   Purpose
   Nature of the research design (for example, survey qualitative interviews, case study)
   Identification, definition, and measurement of key concepts, variables
   Data collection
   Target population and sampling plan (along with rationale)
   Instrumentation
   Data collection procedures
   Protection of human subjects/confidentiality, consent, information given the respondents
   Data processing plan and statistical procedures (for example, chi square of categorical variables of gender, ethnicity)
E. Analysis of data
   Characteristics of study group
   Presentation of findings (organized around research questions, hypotheses
F. Implication of findings for social work theory/practice
   In terms of the population in question and general issues; prevention, remediation
G. Limitations of the study
H. Suggestions for further study
I. Conclusion (summary of study/results/implications).

2. Oral Report: Each student will also give an oral report describing the methodology and findings of the study. These reports will be presented the last two weeks of class as arranged.

3. Research proposal: Each student will submit a brief 2 page summary relating to the research project. The proposal must include the following information:
   A. What is the research topic and problem
   B. What is the research question(s) being asked?
   C. How do the research questions relate to community-based clinical practice?
   D. What are the opportunities to integrate the research findings with social work practice, human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policies and services, and social work values and populations at risk?
   E. Will the design be qualitative or quantitative (or a combination)? What type of research methods will be used (e.g. case study, field research, needs review of current literature and research, single subject, program evaluation, etc.)
   F. A time table of expected completion.

4. Class Participation: Students must attend all scheduled seminars, complete assigned readings, and actively participate in classroom discussions.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the quality of their research project and presentation
A. Final written report - 80 points  B. Research proposal - 5 points  C. Oral presentation - 15 pts

Grades

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\begin{array}{cccc}
\text{Grades} & \text{B+} = 87-89 & \text{C+} = 77-79 & \text{D+} = 67-69 \\
\text{A = 95-100} & \text{(4.0)} & \text{(2.25)} & \text{(1.25)} \\
\text{B = 84-86} & \text{(3.00)} & \text{(2.00)} & \text{(1.00)} \\
\text{A- = 90-94} & \text{(3.75)} & \text{(2.75)} & \text{(1.75)} \\
\text{B- = 80-83} & \text{(2.75)} & \text{(1.75)} & \text{(0.75)}
\end{array}
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Course Policies: Refer to Student Handbook and Golden Rule

Course Text Recommended: Rubin and Babbie. Research Methods for Social Work, 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co. The chapters in the text are from Rubin and Babbie. Students using another standard social work research text will be responsible for identifying the equivalent text from the book that they are using.
**Note:** The course will include lectures on aspects of research design along with a discussion of the research process based on the studies under consideration and being conducted by members of the class. Students should come to class prepared to present information about their own projects and to offer consultation to fellow classmates about ways to improve their research projects. While the following course schedule is presented, the actual sequence of topics will be based on the needs of class members.

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1.**

**Content:**
1. Overview of the course
2. Integration of ethics, theory, and empirical issues within the profession and through the study of an issue related to community-based clinical social work practice.
3. The relationship between stress, social support, problem section, problem definition, and economic and social justice.
4. The interplay of policy, theory, practice, and research in a clinical social work problem in prevention and remediation efforts.
5. Development of problem statements
6. Formation of research questions

**Readings:** Rubin and Babbie. Chapter 1. Scientific inquiry and social work.
   Chapter 2 Philosophical issues in science and research.

**Week 2.**

**Content**
1. Ethical issues and social work research
2. Protection for human subjects that participate in research protocols
3. Literature review and research--including research on policy, practice, theory, populations at risk
4. Research involving already existing research
5. Selection of research design
   Nature of basic research designs——

**Readings:** Rubin and Babbie  Chapter 3  Theory and Research
   Chapter 4  Ethics and Politics of Social Work Research

**Week 3**

**Content**
1. Matching research design and data collection methods to the purpose of the study (single subject, experimental, survey, qualitative, inobtrusive methods).
2. Variables--defining, operationalizing and measuring key variables and concepts
3. Cultural relativity of theory and operationalizing and measuring of variables
4. Development of data collection instruments
5. Questionnaire formulation
6. Reliability
7. Validity

**Readings:**
   Chapter: 5  Problem formulation
   Chapter 6  Conceptualization and Operationalization
   Chapter 7  Measurement
   Chapter 8  Constructing Measurement Instruments
**Week 4**

**Content:**
1. Single subject
2. Causal inference and group designs (experimental and quasi-experimental)
3. Survey research
4. Qualitative

**Readings:**
Chapter 11. Single Case Evaluation Designs
Chapter 12. Quantitative and Qualitative Modes of Observation
Chapter 13. Qualitative Research Methods

**Week 5**

**Content:**
1. Identifying a sampling plan
2. Human subjects as research participants
3. Ethics and professional issues in the selection of research participants
4. NASW Code of ethics and research design
5. Research and special population groups
6. Social and economic justice issues and social work research
7. Program evaluation

Class room exercise regarding current proposals

**Reading assignments**
Chapter 9 Sample plan
Chapter 14. Unobtrusive Research Methods
Chapter 19 Program evaluation

**Week 6**

Research proposals due (2 page summaries including research problem, research question(s), methodology, variables, sampling, data collection plan, instruments and timetables due.

Class room exercise regarding current proposal

Beginning discussion regarding data analysis (Excel and SPSS) and use of computers

**Reading:** Chapter 15

**Week 7** Continuation of use of SPSS for statistical analysis,

**Content:**
1. Data analysis
2. Use of SPSS
3. Descriptive statistics

**Reading:** Chapter 17 & 18 Inferential Data analysis 1 and 2

Appendix H A guide to SPSS

**Weeks 8-12**

Meet with individual students and work with students regarding projects and data analysis

Computer lab help for all students to use for projects

**Weeks 13 & 14** Oral reports (with student feedback)

**Exam Week:** Final reports due on Tuesday.

**Reserve Readings:** Examples of Research Designs (material on reserve in library/electronic). Students are also encouraged to look at professional journals for examples.
Survey:

Use of already existing agency records:

Qualitative Design:

Group comparison Design:

Single Subject:

Combination of Literature review and study:

Bibliography
6. Dziegielewski, S.F. (1991). Social group work with family members who have a relative suffering fro m


