

Prefix and Course Number: 3790

METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER
Office of Academic Affairs

REGULAR COURSE SYLLABUS

School of : Letters Arts and Sciences

Department: Social Work

CIP Code: 44.0701

Semester(s) Offered: Fall

Prefix & Course Number: SWK 3790

Crosslisted With*: _____

Course Title: Research in Social Work

Check All That Apply: Required for Major: Required for Minor: Specified Elective: Required

for Concentration: Elective: Service Course:

Credit Hours: 4 (4+0)

Contact Hours: Lecture 60 Lab 0 Internship 0 Practicum 0

Schedule Type(s): L and J Grading Mode(s): L

Repeat* (Variable topics): _____

*(Pertinent only if the course can be repeated; enter maximum number of hours that can be earned by taking this course.)

Restrictions (Variable Topics Course): NA

Prerequisite(s): Fulfillment of admission requirements to the Baccalaureate Social Work Program, or permission of the instructor for non-majors. Students must complete MTH 1210, Introduction to Statistics, before enrolling in this course.

Corequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): _____

Banner Enforced:

Prerequisite(s):

Corequisite(s): _____

Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): _____

Catalog Course Description:

This course presents fundamental principles, methodology and techniques of social research as applied to social

APPROVED:

Department Chair/Institute Director

Date

Dean

Date

Associate VP, Academic Affairs

Date

*If crosslisted, attach completed Course Crosslisting Agreement Form

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work practice issues. The course emphasizes concepts, skills, and values essential to the design and implementation of a research project. Major themes are the critical analysis and effective utilization of published research.

Required Reading and Other Materials will be equivalent to (Title, Author, Publisher, Copyright Date):

Research Methods for Social Workers: A Generalist Approach for BSW Students. Williams, M, Unrau, Y and Grinnell, R. Peosta, IA: Eddie Bowers Publishing, (2005 or current edition).

Specific (Measurable) Student Behavioral Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the purposes and intentions of social research and its relationship to Generalist Social Work Practice.
2. Apply the relationship of social research to the following prerequisite and required general study courses and illustrate how they are horizontally and vertically linked:
 - A) Social Statistics/ Computer Technology
 - B) Multi-Cultural Relationships
 - C) Anthropology (Cultural)
 - D) Sociology
 - E) Psychology
 - F) Human Behavior and the Social Environment
 - G) Social Policy
 - H) Advanced Social Work Practice
 - I) The Field Experience
 - J) Human Biology
3. Apply various approaches to scientific study and inquiry into human behavior and the social environment using the problem solving model in the context of social research.
4. Examine existing research with particular sensitivity to biases which concern populations at risk which include ethnic minorities and other diverse groups, such as the developmentally disabled, the aging, women, children and members of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community.
5. Evaluate existing and proposed research with emphasis on variables that impact on “social and economic justice” and the ethics of the social work community.
6. Demonstrate social work research skills at a beginning competence level across micro, mezzo, and macro systems.
7. Implement single subject and program evaluation projects with special sensitivity to populations at risk and other diverse groups.
8. Apply the steps of a Social Research Project
9. Explain the importance of utilizing research methods throughout your professional social work career.

Detailed Outline of Course Content (Major Topics and Subtopics) or Outline of Field Experience/Internship (experience, responsibilities and supervision):

- I. Historical View of Social Work Research
 - A. The evolution of scientific research
 - B. Scientific research health purposes

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- C. Social research comparatively (social work, psychology...)
- D. Research focus; micro-mezzo-micro

II. Ethical Conduct

- A. Seeking "truth"
- B. Similarities and differences in studying various subjects
- C. Protection of subjects/attitudes, values, ethics and laws
- D. Values in research and values in social work practice
- E. Biases in research

III. What do Social Workers Study?

- A. Problem formation: who, what, when, why, and how
- B. Micro-Macro problems
- C. Who decides/influences in the development of research efforts
- D. Public and private aspects in research support
- E. Research on Practice (social work and related fields)

IV. Theories and Research in Social Work

- A. Problem Statement
- B. Systems theory
- C. Other HBSE type theories
- D. Concepts/ Units
- E. Laws and systems
- F. Design Considerations

V. Methods and Techniques of Social Work Research

- A. Measurement
- B. Samples
- C. Data Collection
- D. Analysis of data
- E. Limitations of Studies

VI. Types of Social Work Research

- A. Experiments
- B. Survey
- C. Evaluation
- D. Content analysis
- E. Filed research
- F. Other

VII. Single Subject Research

- A. The how's and why's
- B. The place in social work practice
- C. Understanding the procedures

VIII. Program Evaluation

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- A. The how's and why's
- B. The place in social work practice
- C. Understanding the procedures

IX. Critiques of Research for the Social Work Professional

- A. Presentation of research project (articles, books, media, government reports, etc.)
- B. Review of process and analysis of the following:
 - 1. Problem
 - 2. Support
 - 3. Measures
 - 4. Sample
 - 5. Data
- C. Process utilized in project under scrutiny
 - 1. Procedure
 - 2. Techniques
 - 3. Methods of Analysis
 - 4. Relevance to practice-policy

Evaluation of Student Performance:

Five (5) Quizzes

Mid-term Examination

Research paper (8-10 pages)

Participation in Discussions and Activities