UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SWK 407: STATISTICS AND RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

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OFFICE: 3092 McNeill Hall
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays during online class time, Fridays 9-12:30 PM, or by appointment.
CLASS TIME: Section 001- Mondays from 10 am-12:45 pm
CLASS LOCATION: 306 Education Building

*NOTE: Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The application of research methods and statistical tests for the evaluation of social work interventions, with emphasis upon all the parts of the evaluative research process that are required for the testing of the hypothesis, including target behavior analysis, intervention design, and study design as well as both descriptive and inferential statistics.

FULL COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students evaluate social work practice with an emphasis upon applied research methods and the statistical analysis of data. This includes the analysis of target behavior sufficient to guide the design of an intervention, the description of the intervention sufficient to guide replication by others, the design of study methods sufficient to guide the analysis of data, and the analysis of both descriptive and inferential statistics for the description of the study sample and the testing of the study hypothesis. Various descriptive statistics and inferential statistics will be examined with a focus on the matching of the statistic with the structure of the data being tested and the actual application of statistical tests using computer software such as Excel and SPSS.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Prepare an analysis of a target behavior that will guide the determination of an appropriate intervention.
2. Prepare a description of an intervention sufficient to guide replication by others.
3. Design an evaluative study that includes:
   a. A study sample sufficient to provide adequate generalization of study results.
   b. A study hypothesis that clearly identifies the independent and dependent variables and how data will be gathered.
   c. Tools for measurement that demonstrate relevance to the treatment goal, and credibility (i.e., reliability and validity).
   d. A study design that addresses the threats to internal validity of special concern in the particular evaluation context as well as the protection of the rights of human subjects of research.
   e. Procedures that adequately address ethical issues in the use of human subjects for research.
4. Analyze evaluative data sufficient to:
   a. Apply descriptive statistics that will inform others on the generalization of study results, including reference to such statistics as mean, median, mode, range, and standard deviation.
   b. Select an appropriate inferential statistic that suits the structure of the data to be analyzed with reference to such concepts as (1) level of measurement, (2) research design, and (3) data independence.
   c. Apply the appropriate statistic to the collected data using a computer software such as Excel or SPSS.
   d. Interpret the data results with reference both to statistical significance and practical significance.
e. Report the data results in a way that illuminates for the reader the nature of the findings.
5. Draw conclusions consistent with the study results.
6. Discuss how research can be utilized to advance the mission of the social work profession, with special attention to social justice, social work values, and ethics.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
All members of UNCW’s community are expected to follow the academic Honor Code. Please read the UNCW Honor Code carefully (as covered in the UNCW Student Handbook). Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in the class. Please be especially familiar with UNCW’s position on plagiarism as outlined in the UNCW Student Handbook. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which you take someone else’s ideas and represent them as your own. Here are some examples of plagiarism:

a) You write about someone else's work in your paper and do not give them credit for it by referencing them.
b) You give a presentation and use someone else’s ideas and do not state that the ideas are the other person’s.
c) You get facts from your textbook or some other reference material and do not reference that material.


ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
I am more than happy to make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with diagnosed disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services (962-7555). Please give or send me a copy of the letter you receive from Office of Disability Services detailing class accommodations you may need. If you require accommodations for test-taking, please make sure I have the letter ahead of exams.

VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT
UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for any kind of violent or harassing behavior. If you are experiencing an emergency of this type contact the police at 911 or UNCW CARE at 962-2273. Resources for individuals concerned with a violent or harassing situation can be located at http://www.uncw.edu/wsrc/crisis.html.

CAMPUS RESPECT COMPACT
UNCW is committed to a civil community, characterized by mutual respect. Individuals wanting more information about the Respect Compact can contact the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. See: http://uncw.edu/diversity/

USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONICS
The only use of electronics allowed are for the purpose of researching information as permitted by instructor, or for note-taking purposes. All other electronic use is disallowed during class time.

CAMPUS ASSISTANCE FOR THIS COURSE
Assistance is available to help you succeed in this course. The Randall librarian assigned to the School of Social Work is Mr. John Osinski. The Writing Place is available to you for paper-writing assistance. See: http://uncw.edu/ulc/writing/center.html

It is very important that you be able to write competently and coherently, as well as follow APA format & style requirements. You should do a spell and/or grammar check before submitting assignments. You should also have a non-social work friend or colleague proof your papers.

Purdue OWL APA guide: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/664/01/
OVERVIEW OF MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams I &amp; II</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Paper</td>
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ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

**Attendance.** This class adheres to a hybrid format; this means that over the course of the semester, there will typically be a live class followed by an online class. On live class days, students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. If a student misses more than 2 classes, the student will automatically receive a 10 percentage point deduction from their overall grade. Attendance is required in order for students to retain the knowledge guidelines set forth by CSWE. Absences due to illness or familial death will be excused with proper documentation. However, missing class due to field placements is not considered an excused absence. Students that miss three or more classes even with documentation will drop one letter grade. Each absence after the initial three will result in a 5 percentage point deduction from your overall grade.

**Tardiness.** Tardiness is not tolerated. Students are required to be in class on time. The attendance sheet will circulate at the beginning of class. If you are not in class on time, you will be marked as absent. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Excused absences are explained above.

**Participation.** Participation will include a combination of in class and online assignments related to the course content. Assignments will be presented throughout the course of the semester. It is important students are in class and refer to Canvas regularly throughout the semester.
REQUIRED READINGS AND TEXT

Required readings will be in the course texts or placed on Canvas. The course texts are as follows:


In addition, there will be readings on Canvas, some of which are from York, R. O. (2018), *Social Work Research Methods: Learning by Doing.*

These readings are located in the corresponding weekly folder on Canvas labeled, MODULES.

NOTE: Supplemental readings may be assigned during the semester as determined by the instructor.

READING QUIZZES

Each live class (after the first couple weeks) will begin with a quiz on the reading material from the previous (online) week. These quizzes should be taken in Canvas no later than 9:30 am preceding class that day. Reading quizzes are to be taken alone. The quiz material will be discussed in class.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Most online classes will be accompanied by a required written assignment. These assignments include detailed instructions in Canvas in the associated module folder. Students will complete and upload the completed assignment to the submission folder.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will NOT be accepted. If unusual circumstances prevent you from submitting an assignment on time, it is your job to be proactive and notify the instructor. It is not the job of the instructor to reach out to you about missing assignments. Once you have initiated communication regarding this, it is up to the instructor’s discretion to determine whether the assignment will be accepted, and if so, the penalty.

Please plan accordingly for each class assignment. Make sure you begin assignments early; this will help you in an event of illness or death during the semester. Additionally, ALL assignments must be submitted through Canvas, assignments e-mailed to the instructor will not be accepted. Please make sure you are using Mozilla Firefox as your web browser.

Fairness Policy: All assignments are tied to the learning outcomes for this course and are important for your understanding of the course topics. Submit your assignments in the order due on the syllabus and by their due dates.

Grading: Grades are based on your ability to use critical thinking to integrate course materials, readings, and class lectures, exercises, and discussions in your papers and exams. Your work must address all required aspects of each assignment. It must be logical, reflective of your analytical thinking, cohesive, without spelling and grammar errors, and well written according to APA guidelines. Papers must represent your original work, with citations given where needed. Do not cut and paste from other sources – this work must be yours and follow the UNCW Honor Code.

EXAMS

There will be both a Midterm and a Final Exam in this course. Both will be administered online and will include various types of questions such as multiple choice, true/false, etc. Each exam will be worth 100 points. There will be no make-up exams in this class.
Teaching Philosophy

As a social worker, public health professional, academic scholar, & educator- I am committed to sharing my knowledge, values, ethics, and experience in the classroom. I expect my students to help enhance the classroom experience by sharing the same. My teaching philosophy is grounded in social reconstructionism and progressivism which in short means that I find it critical to ask questions that stimulate desire for change and for creating a better society. From a strength’s perspective, I do my best to draw from the uniqueness of each of my students in respect to both their goals and their learning styles. For example, I tend to use a combination of interactive lectures, videos, supplemental reading and materials, engaging activities, discussion and critical thinking in class sessions.

Succeeding in this Course

I want you to succeed in critical thinking, analysis, and learning in SWK 407. This is a required course yet a demanding course that requires you to read the text, be prepared to both attend and talk in class, engage with the material, and to complete your assignments according to directions in the syllabus. I will not cover everything in the text in class, we will spend a good deal of in class time on critical thinking and applying what you’ve learned. Therefore, your time management, organizational abilities, and study skills are vital to your success; this is adult learning. If you have questions about the material as you are reading, bring them up in class. You can expect to be tested on concepts presented in class and in your textbook.

As adults attending an institution of higher education, you are responsible for your own learning. This comes through reading and understanding/asking questions about all of the material and being present and engaged in each class. My best advice to prepare for tests is to read everything, take good notes, and communicate with your instructor when/if you have questions.

Each week you will have course materials available to you through Canvas. If you miss a class, you will need to contact classmates for the information you may have missed. However, the best way to get the most out of the class is to show up and be fully engaged.

Please read the syllabus before the first class to see if you are prepared to do the work the course requires.