



Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Objective

The overall purpose/rationale for this course is to provide an overview of research methods, ethical issues, the role of the researcher, and the limitations to research that arise on the basis of research design. Applied research skills are important to social work policy and practice, to ensure the ongoing attainment of current knowledge that is required for social work professionals.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate the utility of research paradigms and ways of knowing.
2. Analyze social work research ethics, power, positionality, and relationality.
3. Formulate conceptual and methodological approaches to social work research (i.e., Indigenous methodologies, qualitative/quantitative, and evaluation research).
4. Critically analyze data and existing literature.
5. Propose a manuscript for potential publication aimed at a specific audience (i.e., organizing, writing, and the process of publication).
6. Formulate a strategy to disseminate research findings (i.e., posters, manuscripts, article, final report).
7. Assess the evolving connections between research, practice, and policy.

NOTE: The following sections vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the specific instructor.

Sample Instructional Methods

(e.g., face to face instruction, online collaborative, online self-directed, experiential, student led learning, group collaboration, etc.).

Methods include classroom (face to face) attendance, online classes, and an audio-conference component (if available). Classroom component: lecture, discussion, guidance, and discussion about specific projects. Online component: lecture, student postings regarding specific discussion questions. Audio-conference component: combine lecture, discussion and specific questions and discussion about individual research projects.

Sample Text(s) and Resource Materials:

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Engle, R. J., & Schutt, R. K.	The practice of research in social work	current
2. Online resource	University of the Fraser Valley	Understanding human research ethics: A handbook for researcher	current
3. Textbook	Symbaluk, D. G.	Research methods: Exploring the social world in Canadian contexts	current
4. Textbook	Kovach, M.	Indigenous methodologies: Characteristics, conversations, and contexts	current
5. Textbook	Wilson, S.	Research is ceremony: Indigenous research methods	current
6. Textbook	Dudley, J.R.	Research methods for social work: Being producers and consumers of research	current

Sample Required Additional Supplies and Materials

(e.g., software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)

Sample Evaluation Methods and Weighting

(e.g., term paper, essay, assignment, research paper, final exam, midterm exam, major paper, thesis, practicum, research proposal, lab work, etc.)

Assignment	10%	Assignment	25%	Assignment	25%	Assignment	40%
	%				%		%

Sample Course Content and Topics (approximately 50-250 words)

- Research paradigms and ways of knowing
- Research ethics and politics (i.e., occupying space, reflexivity, and social location)
- Conceptual and methodological approaches (i.e., Indigenous methodologies, qualitative/quantitative, and evaluation research)
- Critical analysis of data and existing literature
- Organizing, writing, and the process of publication
- Dissemination and presentation (i.e., posters, manuscripts, article, final report)
- Evolving connection to practice and policy