SOWK 404
COURSE NAME/NUMBER
School of Social Work and Human Services
FACULTY/DEPARTMENT
Research Methods and Evaluation
UFV CREDITS
3
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE
Research Methods and Evaluation

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
This course provides the fundamentals to understand research in a social work context including: what comprises a research question, methods for research, preparing a literature review, and preparing a research proposal. The course provides a review of social science methods and their application to social work practice and research. Also included are strategies and skills appropriate to evaluation of social work interventions and programs. Learners are expected to analyze and critique social work research. Learners can expect to develop a beginning competence in the design and implementation of social work research. Skills in accessing computer-based information (e.g., EBSCOhost, Academic Search Premier) will be emphasized. Portions of this course may be delivered online.

PREREQUISITES:
SOWK 330, and one of STAT 104 (formerly MATH 104), STAT 106 (formerly MATH 106), or PSYC 110.

COREQUISITES:
PRE or COREQUISITES:

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces: SSSW 404
(b) Cross-listed with:
(c) Cannot take:

SERVICE COURSE TO: (department/program)

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 45
TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course:

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:
Lectures: 10 Hrs
Seminar: 25 Hrs
Laboratory: Hrs
Field experience: Hrs
Student directed learning: 10 Hrs
Other (specify): Hrs

OTHER:
Maximum enrolment: 18 – This is a methods course
Expected frequency of course offerings:
(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only) Yes □ No □
WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department) Yes □ No □
TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE: Yes □ No □

Course designer(s): Dr. Adrienne Chan
Department Head: Dr. Elizabeth Dow, Director
Supporting area consultation
Curriculum Committee chair:
Dean/Associate VP: Dr. Rosetta Khalideen, Dean
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval Date of meeting: n/a
 Date of meeting: November 23, 2012

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Critically evaluate social work research.
2. Select current research information using the Internet.
3. Assess the forms of social work research, including single case study design, experimental design, descriptive design, needs assessment, and program evaluation.
4. Conceptualize, design, implement, and disseminate social work research.

Specific Objectives:
1. Describe and discuss the scientific method and its applicability to social work research methods.
2. Demonstrate competency in using basic research concepts.
3. Describe and discuss a variety of research methods and their application to social work practice.
4. Describe the steps involved in conducting a research project.
5. Describe and discuss needs assessments, program evaluation, experimental design, and program development in terms of their relationship to social work research.
6. Describe and discuss action, conscientizing, and participatory research and their relationship to social work practice.
7. Assess and critically analyze social work research studies.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the influence of social work research on social work policy and practice.
9. Identify the procedures required and identify the steps in the design of social work research.
10. Formulate, conduct, and write a literature review.
11. Demonstrate the ability to be both culturally and gender sensitive in the design and implementation of research.
13. Use electronic mail and the world wide web to gather information and communicate.

METHODS:
(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
The course will be conducted in lecture/discussion style with seminar presentations, class discussion, and small group activities as indicated. In some sections, online seminars will be used.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
- Examination(s)
- Portfolio assessment
- Interview(s)
- Other (specify):

☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:
[Textbook selection varies by instructor. Examples for this course might be:]

On Reserve:

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION:
[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:] As this course is based on cooperative and collaborative learning, credit may be withheld from a student who misses more than 3 classes.
- Literature Review 25%
- Exam 30%
- Research Design Outline 15%
- Research Design 30%
COURSE CONTENT: [Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

1. Introduction, Defining the Problem
2. Knowledge and Science, Ethical Issues and Protocols
3. Defining the Problem
4. Literature Review and Hypothesis Creation, Focusing the Problem, Feminist Methods
5. Research Design
6. Sampling and Measurement
7. Designs that Explore and Describe
8. Acquiring Data, Using Data Collection Instruments, Measurement Concepts
9. Decolonizing Methodologies; Research with Aboriginal Peoples
11. Data Analysis
12. Disseminating Findings, Writing the Report
13. Wrap-up and Catch-up, Submission of Reports