Graduate Studies

OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT: SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SOWK 704   N/A   3

COURSE NAME/NUMBER   FORMER COURSE NUMBER   UFV CREDITS

Research and Program Evaluation

COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

The most common forms of applied research with which social workers engage are program evaluation, outcome evaluation, and needs assessment. This course on Research and Program Evaluation will prepare students to design and implement a specific research project at the graduate level, with a community organization or agency. Drawing from a heuristic, non-positivist approach to research, the course will emphasize a range of research traditions. The course will facilitate practical experience in applied research, and focus on developing the skills of the researcher within the context of everyday practice. Course content will include knowledge and skill development in developing a research plan, qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, ethical considerations and ethics approval, implementation of the research plan, data collection, and preliminary data analysis. Students are expected to have had previous experience in literature review and research design, and a basic understanding of statistics.

PREREQUISITES: Students must have taken a research and statistics course prior to taking this course. Students should also have a basic understanding of literature review and research design. Admission to the MSW program.

COREQUISITES: None

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 45

* STRUCTURE OF HOURS
Lectures: 15
Seminar: 30
Field Experience:
Laboratory:
Student Directed Learning:
Other (Specify):

MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT: 24

EXPECTED FREQUENCY OF COURSE OFFERINGS: On a yearly basis

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES:

Course Designer(s):
Adrienne Chan, MSW, RSW, PhD

GPC Chair:
John Hogg

Dean:
Rosetta Khalideen

GSC Chair:
Yvon Dandurand

GSC Approval in Principle Date: GSC Final Approval Date: August 27, 2009

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 1, 2010

COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (4 years after approval): August 1, 2013
COURSE OBJECTIVE - The overall purpose / rationale for this course is:

To develop the students' skills and experience in implementing an applied research project in social work, in areas such as program evaluation and needs assessment. These applied research skills and knowledge are important given the nature of accountability that is required for social service and health sector agencies and organizations.

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

- Demonstrate skill and understanding of the methods utilized for knowledge acquisition and their relationship to specific types of research questions;
- Demonstrate skill in using basic qualitative and quantitative methods;
- Identify and address ethical issues within the context of research;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of power, culture, and human diversity in research;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role and dynamics of researchers who are internal and external to organizations;
- Examine and conceptualize research within the context of social change;
- Demonstrate the skill to develop and implement a small research project in program evaluation and/or needs assessment related to specific interests in social work practice and policy.

METHODS:

The methods for SOWK 704 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.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Review of research design and introducing evaluation research
- Examining agency needs, ethical considerations
- Sampling, data collection, needs assessment
- Process evaluation and outcome evaluation
- Power, culture and difference in research projects
- Data collection
- Data collection, research for social change and participatory research
- Data analysis
- Limitations and implications of research
- Writing-up, reporting findings, dissemination of research
- Summing-up and wrap-up
**STUDENT EVALUATION:**

Assignment #1 - Ethics Review Submission  (Value - 30%)

Ethics Review is required for all research conducted through UFV. Of paramount concern in research is “minimal risk” for participants. This assignment requires the completion of all forms and requirements to submit to the Research Ethics Board, and any forms or requirements for the agency where the research is being conducted.

Assignment #2 - Research Journal  (Value - 30%, two journals x 15% each)

The content of the journal may involve ideas and issues that relate to the research experience, concepts that trouble or intrigue the researcher/student, or ideas that emerge and challenge the research process. This assignment is a place to identify how the research process has had an impact on researcher/students with respect to ongoing social work learning. Having difficulties with the research process is normal, and should be articulated.

Assignment #3 - Research Report  (Value 40%)

Students are expected to complete data collection for a research project that represents a program evaluation or needs assessment. The paper should include an introduction, overview of the research problem, reference to the relevant literature, description of method, ethical considerations, preliminary findings, limitations of the study, implications for practice and policy, and a conclusion.

**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:**


A coursepack of additional readings and worksheets will be used to guide students in the development and implementation of their research project.

**SUPPORT MATERIALS:**


UFV Research ethics forms/handouts

UFV Research Ethics Handbook


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PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
Credit can be awarded for this course through PLAR (Please check:)  ☐ YES ☑ NO

* If YES specify how:

* These sections are subject to change at the discretion of the department and the content will vary.