### CALENDAR DESCRIPTIVE TITLE:

This is an independent, self-directed study, working under the supervision of a faculty member, and should be related to the student’s major area of interest. The major paper will be the result of a project (such as a program evaluation) or an in-depth critical analysis. The major paper should include an integration of theory and practice. The paper may encompass a variety of modes, including discourse analysis, media analysis, critical review of research, and program evaluation, and should focus on a specific social welfare or social work practice issue. Topics will be negotiated with the supervising faculty member.

### PREREQUISITES:
Admission to the MSW program and (SOWK 700, 704, 710, 711, and 720) and (one of the following: SOWK 750, 783, or 797).

### COREQUISITES:
None.

### TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:  
* STRUCTURE OF HOURS  
Lectures:  
Seminar:  
Field Experience:  
Student Directed Learning:  
Other (Specify):  
Independent Study

### MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT:  
n/a

### EXPECTED FREQUENCY OF COURSE OFFERINGS:  
Every 2 years, based on MSW Cohort model

### AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Designer(s):</th>
<th>GPC Chair:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leah Douglas, MSW, PhD, RSW</td>
<td>John Hogg</td>
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<th>Dean:</th>
<th>GSC Chair:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rosetta Khalideen, PhD</td>
<td>Adrienne S. Chan, MSW, PhD</td>
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<th>GSC Approval in Principle Date:</th>
<th>GSC Final Approval Date:</th>
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<td>January 23, 2014</td>
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### COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:  
September 1, 2010

### COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:  
January 2015

### COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (4 years after approval):  
January 2018
COURSE OBJECTIVE - The overall purpose / rationale for this course is:
To develop the students' academic skills by writing a major paper that is the conclusion of a research project. The written submission demonstrates the ability to articulate the findings of a program evaluation or needs assessment. The course and major paper are related to the students' major area of interest.

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

- Demonstrate the ability to conceptualize and execute the examination of a specific problem or question related to social work theory and practice;
- Demonstrate an advanced level of knowledge of the chosen subject area;
- Write a cohesive and critical academic paper at a graduate level.

METHODS:
This course will be conducted as an independent study. Methods will vary according to the senior supervisor, but may include face to face meetings, telephone and email contact, Blackboard Learn sessions, Skype calls, group meetings, etc.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Identifying the thesis question or problem: Problem statement
- How to address the thesis question or problem: methodology, theoretical frameworks
- Writing the proposal; how to start, getting organized, addressing issues in writing
- Knowledge production
- Answering the thesis question or problem
- Analysis of literature/data
- Writing the major paper
- Submission of draft; writing about implications for theory and practice, revising previous work
- Submission of draft; writing conclusions, revising previous work
- Submission of draft, revising previous work
- Submission of major paper

STUDENT EVALUATION:
Evaluation of this course will be done in accordance with UFV regulations. Please refer to:
http://www.ufv.ca/__shared/assets/Guidelines_on_the_Preparation___Supervision19773.pdf

Assignment 1: Introduction - Literature Review - Conceptual Framework - Design and Methodology
Assignment 2: Complete Draft of Major Paper
Assignment 3: Major Paper
Assignment 4: Presentation of Major Paper
Students receive a grade of Credit or No Credit.
**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:**


**SUPPORT MATERIALS:**


About Thesis writing:


On Reserve: Examples of major papers at the Master’s level
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.