Angelo State University
Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work
SWK 3355: Social Work Research I

Course Dates, Time, and Location

Fall Semester, 2017: August 28, 2017 to December 15, 2017
TR at 8:00-9:15 A213 Section 010

Instructor Contact Information

Thomas W. Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW
Associate Professor
Academic Building, Office 104F
Office Phone: 325-486-6130
E-Mail: tstarkey@angelo.edu

Office Hours: MWF 9:00 am – 10:00 am and TR 9:30:00 am – 12:00 am

Course Description

Presentation of the methods used in scientific inquiry and program evaluation; knowledge of how scientific evidence informs social work practice and how social work practice informs scientific inquiry is of primary concern. Focuses on the skills related to conducting research and practice evaluation. Ethical, cultural, and professional value considerations in the research process are emphasized. Prerequisite: SWK 2307, SWK 2317, and Admission to the B.S.W. degree program

Course Introduction

This course will present an introduction to research methods used in generalist social work practice and social work research. This course consists of classroom lectures, discussions, and requires the creation of a program evaluation proposal. Students will learn to apply social work ethics to the research enterprise, and will learn the relationship that research has with generalist social work practice that is evidence-based. Lastly, but not least in importance for this course, students begin to develop skills necessary to find, read, evaluate, and apply social work research in a systematic and critical manner. The importance of research guided social work practice and practice guided social work research holds primacy status in this course.

(The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester if necessary.)
Student Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies: Social Work Knowledge, Values, and Skills

Competency 4: Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice.

Social workers understand quantitative and qualitative research methods and their respective roles in advancing a science of social work and in evaluating their practice. Social workers know the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and culturally informed and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers understand that evidence that informs practice derives from multi-disciplinary sources and multiple ways of knowing. They also understand the processes for translating research findings into effective practice.

Course Materials

*Required Texts:*


ISBN: 978-1-4129-7109-6


*NOTE: All assignments submitted in this course are to be written in strict accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.).*

Grading Information

*Grading Scale:*

90 – 100 = A
80 – 89 = B
70 – 79 = C
60 – 69 = D
59 or Below = F

(The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester if necessary.)
Point Values, Description of Assignments and Examinations, and Associated Practice Behaviors:

Professional Performance 10%

This is relevant to attendance; engaging in class activities, including frequency and quality; professional presentation; and so forth. An expectation of a professional social worker is that they are present in their practice setting. The expectation for students in a social work program is that they are motivated to learn and have a sense of dedication to their studies. Thus, my expectation of you is that you will be present in class. Class begins and ends at the scheduled time. Students are to be present for the duration of class. It is expected that all other demands of your time—work, family, appointments, other courses, etc.—will be negotiated with this in mind. Students will be requested their full presence in class, physical and intellectual presence.

For this class:

There is no grade penalty for the first 3 absences (this is not an invite to miss class).

- Any additional absence will result in a loss of 10 points off of your total grade.
- The 7th absence results in a failing grade for the course. Please refer to ASU policy regarding class attendance.
- Being more than 5 minutes late for class will count as an absence.

Examinations 60%

There will be two (2) timed examinations in this course, consisting of two parts. There will be multiple choice questions online and in class short answer/essay. Each of these examinations is worth 20% of your total course grade. Short weekly chapter quizzes will constitute 20% of your examination grade.

Testing via Respondus™ Monitor

Access to quizzes and exams will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus™ Monitor [See Other Required Materials for a list of needed equipment]. Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

There are two practice quizzes: a) one is a Webcam test and b) a short 10 question practice quiz over ASU trivia that is not graded. These tools will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through these practice quizzes in advance of taking a graded quiz. This process will allow you to become familiar with the technology associated with testing and improve the testing environment. These quizzes, instructional videos, and more information regarding Respondus Monitor can be found under the Respondus Monitor Help tab in your Blackboard course.

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OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet Cable
- Webcam (Please note: a plug-in webcam allows the student to perform thorough environmental scans).

Refer to Angelo State University’s Distance Education website for further technology requirements:
http://www.angelo.edu/distance_education

Technical Assistance: If you have any technical problems associated with the test (i.e. webcam problems, lock down browser problems) you should contact the IT Department. The IT Service Department is open M-F from 8-5 and the number is (325) 942-2911. If you call any time after 5 or on the weekend, most likely you will not be able to get assistance until the following week day, so please plan accordingly.

Other Notes:
- Be sure not to mute your microphone. It is important that the audio be on.
- Be sure to have a light source in front of or next to your computer monitor. If your image is dark and difficult to see on the “Student Photo” step, please add lighting to the front of your computer and retry.
- Make sure that on the “Student Photo” step, you are nicely framed so your face and shoulders can be seen as well as some of the background.
- ****Use an Ethernet cord to “hard wire” your computer to the router helping to ensure you will not lose connection with Blackboard.

Program Evaluation Proposal 30%

This assignment is designed to foster student understanding of program evaluation strategies that may be used in generalist social work practice (e.g., the analysis, monitoring, and evaluation of interventions in a particular program). Consequently, each student will write a program evaluation proposal that must contain the following elements (taken and modified from Royse, Thyer, Padgett, & Logan, 2006):

I. Introduction
   A. Description of the program
   B. Questions about the program to be explored
   C. Purpose of the evaluation and it’s rational

II. Relevant Literature Review
   A. The context: theoretical/historical perspectives for understanding the program
   B. A review of relevant literature

III. Evaluation Methods
   A. Design

(The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester if necessary.)
B. Procedures
C. Description of clients in the program
D. Sampling strategy
E. Instrumentation
F. Proposed data analysis

IV. Proposed Time Line and Budget
V. References
VI. Appendices

Course Policies

- Please do ask questions that are relevant to the course and feel free to utilize my office hours. I am here to help you and I want you to succeed.

- Classroom attendance and participation is necessary and expected. Students are responsible for understanding Angelo State University’s Class Attendance Regulations, which is available on the web at: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/2010-2011_Undergraduate_Catalog.pdf

- All students are expected to follow the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

- Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at: http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf

- Make-up examinations will be considered on a case by case basis and will only be allowed for university approved absences.

- Late assignments are not accepted for any reason unless the reason is approved by the course instructor.

- Electronic devices, including cell phones, Blackberries, laptops, and so forth, are not to be turned on or used in class. If the use of these devices is detected by the course instructor, the particular student using the device will be asked to leave the class for that day.

Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Additional information can be found at: http://www.angelo.edu/services/student_life/disability.html

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## Course Schedule

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<thead>
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<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Lecture Topics/Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1 8/28-9/1</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Reading: Chapter 1 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lecture Topic: Toward Evidence-Based Practice</td>
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<td>Week 2 9/4-9/8</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 2 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Labor Day: 9/4</td>
<td>Lecture Topic: Ethical Issues in Research</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment</strong>: Locate Program for Evaluation</td>
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<td>Week 3 9/11-9/15</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 14 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic: Writing the Research Report and Disseminating Research Findings</td>
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<td>Week 4 9/18-9/22</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 3 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic: Developing Research Problems and Research Questions</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment</strong>: Draft Section I of Program Evaluation Proposal</td>
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<td>Week 5 9/25-9/29</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 4 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic: Conducting the Literature Review and Developing Research Hypotheses</td>
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<td>Week 6 10/2-10/6</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 5 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic: Quantitative Research</td>
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<td><strong>Assignment</strong>: Draft Section II of Program Evaluation Proposal</td>
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<td>Week 7 10/9-10/13</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 6 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic: Qualitative Research</td>
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<td>Week 8 10/16-10/20</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 7 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic: Evaluating Programs</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 1</strong>: Chapters 1-7 &amp; 14: Blackboard 10/20 to 10/23</td>
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<td>Week 9 10/23-10/24</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 8 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic: Evaluating Individual Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/30-11/3</td>
<td>Chapter 9 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
<td>Sampling Issues and Options</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/6-11/10</td>
<td>Chapter 10 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
<td>Measurement Concepts and Issues</td>
<td>Assignment: Draft Section III-VI of Program Evaluation Proposal</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>11/20-11/24</td>
<td>Chapter 12 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
<td>Data Collection Instruments</td>
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<td>11/22-11/24</td>
<td><em>Thanksgiving</em></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11/27-12/1</td>
<td>Chapter 13 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
<td>Analyzing Data</td>
<td>Assignment: Program Evaluation Proposal Due</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>12/4-12/8</td>
<td>Program Evaluation Proposal Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/11-12/15</td>
<td>Chapter 13 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
<td>Analyzing Data</td>
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