



**Angelo State University
Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work
SWK 3357: Social Work Research II**

Course Dates, Time, and Location

Spring Semester, 2012: January 17, 2012 to May 11, 2012
Tuesday, Thursday: 8:00 am - 9:15 am
Academic Building, Room 205

Instructor Contact Information

Thomas W. Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW
Assistant Professor
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Office Hours: MTWRF 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Course Description

Presentation of selected statistical methods used in scientific inquiry, program evaluation, and knowledge of how statistical analysis informs social work practice. Focuses on the skills related to statistical analysis, interpretation, and application. Ethical, cultural, and professional value considerations in statistical analysis are emphasized. Prerequisite: SWK 3355

Course Introduction

This course will present an introduction to statistical methods used in generalist social work practice, social work research, and is a continuation of the research sequence in the B.S.W. curriculum. This course consists of classroom lectures and lab activities conducting statistical analyses and interpreting statistical output. During the lab activities, students are introduced to the most recent version of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Students will complete practice exercises that relate to the various statistical methods taught in class lectures and discussion using data from the General Social Survey. Lastly, but not least in importance for this course, students begin to develop skills necessary to 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

EP 2.1.1 -- Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.

Students will continue to develop their knowledge of professional social work and what it means to be a professional social worker in relationship to social work roles, functions, ethical standards, professional demeanor, the importance of life-long learning, the use of supervision and consultation, self-correction, and professional development. Students will gain knowledge of the professional values of the social work profession and gain skill using social work values and ethics to guide professional activities including research and data analysis. Students will build upon their existing skills necessary to identify as professional social workers and conduct themselves accordingly in their behavior, appearance, and communication (written and oral).

EP 2.1.2 -- Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.

Students will build upon their existing knowledge of the *NASW Code of Ethics* (and other appropriate social work codes of ethics) and their importance in social work practice; for example, to research and data analysis in this course. Students will recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice. Students will begin to learn the skills of applying their professional values to generalist social work practice.

EP 2.1.3 -- Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.

Students will gain knowledge of what critical thinking is and how it can be applied. Students will learn the value of critical thinking as it relates to scientific inquiry, reasoned discernment, and its importance to competent social work practice. Students will practice their critical thinking skills in written class assignments and discussion.

EP 2.1.6 -- Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

Students will gain knowledge of the social work literature (i.e., research) that can be used to inform generalist social work practice. Students will learn skills to apply practice experience in scientific inquiry. Students will incorporate social work values and ethics in their discussion of research informed practice and practice informed research.

EP 2.1.10 -- Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Students will gain the knowledge necessary to evaluate generalist social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Students will apply professional values to generalist practice activities (i.e., evaluation of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities). Students will discuss and learn skills necessary to evaluate individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

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Course Materials

Required Texts:

Weinbach, R. W., & Grinnell, R. M. (2010). *Statistics for social workers* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon. ISBN: 978-0-205-73987-5

Babbie, E., Halley, F. S., Wagner, W. E., & Zaino, J. (2011). *Adventures in social research: Data analysis using IBM SPSS statistics* (7th ed. with SPSS CD). Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. ISBN: 978-1-4129-8245-10

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5

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

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.

- PB2 Practice personal reflection and self-correction to assure continual professional development.
- PB3 Attend to professional roles and boundaries.
- PB4 Demonstrate professional demeanor in behavior, appearance, and communication.
- PB7 Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.
- PB10 Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.
- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
- PB12 Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation.

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Examinations

60%

There will be three (3) online, open book, multiple attempt (no more than three attempts), timed, examinations in this course. Each of these examinations is worth 20% of your total course grade. You will take each of these examinations via Blackboard using the Respondus LockDown browser.

- PB8 Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles.
- PB10 Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.
- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
- PB12 Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation.
- PB21 Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry.
- PB22 Use research evidence to inform practice.
- PB41 Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions.

SPSS Assignments

30%

During class time or for homework, students will do data analysis using SPSS software, data from the General Social Survey; these assignments will relate to basic data analysis techniques using the most recent version of SPSS.

- PB8 Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles.
- PB10 Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.
- PB11 Distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom.
- PB12 Analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation.
- PB21 Use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry.
- PB22 Use research evidence to inform practice.
- PB41 Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions.

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

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- 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

Course Schedule

Week/Dates	Lecture Topics/Readings/Assignments
Week 1 1/17-1/20	Course Introduction Reading: Chapter 1 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: Introduction to Statistics for Social Workers
Week 2 1/23-1/27	Reading: Chapters 1-4 (Babbie, Halley, Wagner, & Zaino) Lecture Topic: Preparing for Data Analysis; The Basics of SPSS
Week 3 1/30-2/3	Reading: Chapter 2 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: Frequency Distributions and Graphs
Week 4 2/6-2/10	Reading: Chapter 3 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: Measures of Central Tendency <i>Course Schedule Continued on the Next Page</i>

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Week 5 2/13-2/17	Reading: Chapter 4 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: Normal Distributions
Week 6 2/20-2/24	Reading: Chapter 5 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: The Basics of Hypothesis Testing Exam 1: Chapters 1-4, 2/20/2011 to 2/24/2011
Week 7 2/27-3/2	Reading: Chapter 6 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: Sampling Dist; Rejection Zones; Statistical Test Selection
Week 8 3/5-3/9	Lecture Topic: Where We Have Been-Where We Are Going Assignment: Exercises 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1, and 9.1
Week 9 3/19-3/23 3/12-3/16 is Spring Break	Reading: Chapter 7 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: The t-Tests and Analysis of Variance
Week 10 3/26-3/30	Reading: Chapter 8 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: The Chi-Square Test
Week 11 4/2-4/6	Reading: Chapter 9 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: Correlation Exam 2: Chapters 5-8, 4/2/2011 to 4/6/2011
Week 12 4/9-4/13	Reading: Chapter 10 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: Regression
Week 13 4/16-4/30	Reading: Chapter 11 (Weinbach & Grinnell) Lecture Topic: Statistical Analysis and Evidence-Based Practice
Week 14 4/23-4/27	Assignment: Exercises 10.1, 11.1, 12.1, 13.1, 14.1, and 9.1
Week 15 4/30-5/4	Assignment: Exercise 16.1
Week 16 5/7-5/11	Exam 3: Chapters 9-11, 5/5/2011 to 5/9/2011

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