Course Dates, Time, and Location

Fall Semester, 2019: August 26 2019 to December 13, 2019
TR 8:00 am - 9:15 am HHS 104 Section 010

Instructor Contact Information

Thomas W. Starkey, Ph.D., LCSW
Associate Professor
HHS Building, Office 224J
Office Phone: 325-486-6130
E-Mail: tstarkey@angelo.edu

Office Hours:  TR 8:00 am to 12:00 pm & MW 8:00 am to 10:00 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 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.

**Competency 6: Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**
Social workers understand that engagement is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers value the importance of human relationships. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to facilitate engagement with clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand strategies to engage diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may impact their ability to effectively engage with diverse clients and constituencies. Social workers value principles of relationship-building and inter-professional collaboration to facilitate engagement with clients, constituencies, and other professionals as appropriate.

**Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**
Social workers understand that assessment is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in the assessment of diverse clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand methods of assessment with diverse clients and constituencies to advance practice effectiveness. Social workers recognize the implications of the larger practice context in the assessment process and value the importance of inter-professional collaboration in this process. Social workers understand how their personal experiences and affective reactions may affect their assessment and decision-making.

**Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**
Social workers understand that intervention is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are knowledgeable about

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evidence-informed interventions to achieve the goals of clients and constituencies, including individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge to effectively intervene with clients and constituencies. Social workers understand methods of identifying, analyzing and implementing evidence-informed interventions to achieve client and constituency goals. Social workers value the importance of interprofessional teamwork and communication in interventions, recognizing that beneficial outcomes may require interdisciplinary, interprofessional, and inter-organizational collaboration.

**Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities**

Social workers understand that evaluation is an ongoing component of the dynamic and interactive process of social work practice with, and on behalf of, diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities. Social workers recognize the importance of evaluating processes and outcomes to advance practice, policy, and service delivery effectiveness. Social workers understand theories of human behavior and the social environment, and critically evaluate and apply this knowledge in evaluating outcomes. Social workers understand qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating outcomes and practice effectiveness.

**Course Materials**

*Required Texts:*


*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

(The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester if necessary.)
59 or Below = F

Point Values, Description of Assignments and Examinations, and Associated Practice Behaviors:

**Professional Performance and Discussion Board**

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.

**Peer Reviewed Journal Article Summaries**

20%

Students will find a peer reviewed journal article (PRJA) to write a summary about each of the four sections in the Research Proposal below. Each student will be provided a PRJA from the university library and write a summary identify the introduction section, literature review section, the evaluation methods section, and the proposed data analysis section. This will be due as indicated in the syllabus.

**Examinations**

30%

(The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester if necessary.)
There will be three (3) 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 30% of your total course grade.

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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.

Research Proposal 40%

This group of assignments fosters understanding of the basic information necessary for the consumption and utilization of research in generalist social work practice and the process of research used in practice and program evaluation (e.g., the analysis, monitoring, and evaluation of interventions in a particular program).

Students will be assigned to small groups at the beginning of the semester with which they will collaborate throughout the semester to produce a research proposal and presentation. The steps of the process are detailed in group-based assignments that are

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conducted during class sessions. Each individual group assignment will be graded as will the final paper and presentation.

The proposal will include the following structure:

I. Introduction
   A. Description of the research problem/issue to be explored
   B. Purpose of the proposed research study and its rationale
   C. The context: theoretical/historical perspectives of the research problem

II. Relevant Literature Review
   A. A review of relevant literature
   B. Statement of the research question and the hypothesis (must contain BOTH)

III. Evaluation Methods
   A. Design
   B. Procedures
   C. Description of sample to be studied
   D. Sampling strategy
   E. Instrumentation

IV. Proposed data analysis (must include proposed method of analysis)

V. Expected Findings

VI. Discussion
   A. Contributions to existing knowledge
   B. Limitations of the proposed methodology

VII. References

VIII. Appendices (if required)

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

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• 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](http://www.angelo.edu/services/student_life/disability.html)

**Course Schedule**

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<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Lecture Topics/Readings/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 8/26-8/30</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<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 9/2-9/6</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 2 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/2 Labor Day</td>
<td>Lecture Topic: Ethical Issues in Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td>Assignment: Identify Topic of Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 9/9-9/13</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>PRJA Section 1 Due 9/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 9/16-9/20</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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| Week 5  | Reading: Chapter 4 (Yegidis, Weinbach, & Myers)  
|         | Lecture Topic: Conducting the Literature Review and Developing Research Hypotheses |
| 9/23-9/27 |  

| Week 6  | Reading: Chapter 5 (Yegidis, Weinbach, & Myers)  
|         | Lecture Topic: Quantitative Research  
| 9/30-10/4 | PRJA Section 1 Due 10/4  
|          | Exam 1: Chapters 1-5 & 14: Blackboard 10/4 to 10/8 |

| Week 7  | Reading: Chapter 6 (Yegidis, Weinbach, & Myers)  
|         | Lecture Topic: Qualitative Research  
| 10/7-10/11 | Assignment: Draft Section II of Research Proposal  

| Week 8  | Reading: Chapter 7 (Yegidis, Weinbach, & Myers)  
|         | Lecture Topic: Evaluating Programs  
| 10/14-10/18 |  

| Week 9  | Reading: Chapter 8 (Yegidis, Weinbach, & Myers)  
|         | Lecture Topic: Evaluating Individual Practice  
| 10/21-10/25 |  

| Week 10  | Reading: Chapter 9 (Yegidis, Weinbach, & Myers)  
|         | Lecture Topic: Sampling Issues and Options  
| 10/28-11/1 |  

| Week 11  | Reading: Chapter 10 (Yegidis, Weinbach, & Myers)  
|         | Lecture Topic: Measurement Concepts and Issues  
| 11/4-11/8 | PRJA Section 3 & 4 Due 11/8  
|          | Exam 2: Chapters 6-10: Blackboard 11/8 to 11/12 |

| Week 12  | Reading: Chapter 11 (Yegidis, Weinbach, & Myers)  
|         | Lecture Topic: Methods for Acquiring Research Data  
| 11/11-11/15 |  

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<tr>
<th>Week 13 11/18-11/22</th>
<th>Assignment: Draft Section III-VI of Research Proposal</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 12 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic: Data Collection Instruments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14 11/25-11/29</td>
<td>Reading: Chapter 13 (Yegidis, Weinbach, &amp; Myers)</td>
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<td>Assignment: Research Proposal Due</td>
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<td>Week 15 12/2-12/6</td>
<td>Research Proposal Presentations</td>
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<td>Week 16 12/9-12/13</td>
<td>Exam 3: Chapters 11-15: Blackboard 12/9-12/11</td>
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