Instructor:  
Dr. Christopher M. Shar  
Email:  
christopher.shar@angelo.edu (preferred method of communication)  
Phone:  
325.486.6246  
Office:  
HHS 224R  
Office Hours:  
MWF 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and by appointment

Course Information

Course Times and Dates

Summer Session 2021 – June 7th through July 30th  
Optional Online Synchronous Meetings – Tuesday evenings 6:00 p.m.

Course Description

This course is open to students who chose the thesis option. Independent, applied research that addresses a significant issue in social work supervised by a member of the social work graduate faculty. This course is designed to assist students in completing their thesis and consists of the completion of an empirical research study, including its design and implementation, the completion of the written thesis document, and defense of the thesis before the student’s thesis committee. (This course may be repeated.)

Course Credits

3

Prerequisites and Prerequisite Courses

All students must be enrolled in the traditional track of the MSW program.

Prerequisite Skills

General skill-based requirements of this course include basic computer proficiencies (e.g., accessing Internet websites, using online and on-campus library resources, and familiarity with Microsoft Office programs) and the ability to understand and apply the formatting and style guidelines of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the program of study for the master’s degree in Social Work, the graduate will be prepared to practice as an advanced generalist in the field of social work as well as become licensed as a master’s level social worker.
Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</th>
<th>Mapping to Program Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice</td>
<td>Statistics-related lab assignments; journal article critique; and research proposal</td>
<td>Application of critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Delivery
This course is delivered face-to-face with the student and members of the student’s thesis committee.

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* (7th ed.). If you do not already own the *Publication Manual*, this is a **required** text.

Technology Requirements
To successfully complete this course, students **must** have access to the following devices, software, and services:

- A computer capable of running Windows (7 or later), or Mac OSX (10.8 or later)
- The latest version of Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, or Mac Safari web browsers
- Microsoft Office Suite (or a compatible Open Office Suite)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (or similar PDF reader)
- High Speed Internet access and an Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam with microphone
Refer to Angelo State University’s Distance Education website for further technology requirements.

Communication
All communication (email or phone) typically receives a response within 24 hours at the latest. Messages sent on weekends and evenings may receive a longer wait for responses than during morning or afternoon hours during the week. Emails received after 6:00 p.m. may not be addressed until the following morning.

Ask questions and participate in all opportunities for course discussion. Graduate learning is dependent upon your synthesis of the material with your existing knowledge base. Active learning improves student outcomes as demonstrated by a well-established evidence base.

Utilize virtual office hours as needed. I am happy to make an appointment to speak via phone, or through Webex, Zoom, or Blackboard Collaborate at a time convenient to both of our schedules. I encourage all students to take advantage of access as a resource for any and all course-related questions and concerns.

Grading

Evaluation and Grades
Course grades will be determined as indicated in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teaching Strategies
Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers.

Assignment Description

Thesis 100%
The thesis requires substantive content and scholarly quality of writing. All drafts as well as the final product must conform to the standards and guidelines of the ASU Graduate School as presented in the latest version of the Thesis Handbook in addition to the APA Publication Manual (7th ed.). The thesis must demonstrate the cumulative knowledge which the student has gained throughout the MSW program and be demonstrated through the completion of the final paper. This includes understanding of scholarly writing and its conventions; substantive knowledge about a specific area of social work displayed through the literature.
review; familiarity with scholarly research demonstrated by conducting data collection and analysis; and ability to draw conclusions from empirical evidence and make recommendations for further research based on the thesis’ results.

**Assignment and Activity Descriptions**

**Thesis**

The thesis requires substantive content and scholarly quality of writing. All drafts as well as the final product must conform to the standards and guidelines of the ASU Graduate School as presented in the latest version of the Thesis Handbook in addition to the APA Publication Manual (7th ed.). The thesis must demonstrate the cumulative knowledge which the student has gained throughout the MSW program and be demonstrated through the completion of the final paper. This includes understanding of scholarly writing and its conventions; substantive knowledge about a specific area of social work displayed through the literature review; familiarity with scholarly research demonstrated by conducting data collection and analysis; and ability to draw conclusions from empirical evidence and make recommendations for further research based on the thesis’ results.

**General Policies Related to This Course**

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- Angelo State University Student Handbook
- Angelo State University Catalog
- Angelo State University Honor Code
- Angelo State University Statement of Academic Integrity

**Student Responsibility and Attendance**

This result of this course is the completion of a thesis as part of the master’s in social work degree program. Student self-motivation and active engagement is necessary throughout the process. This includes, but is not limited to, collaborative discussions with committee members, conducting the necessary requirements of a scholarly research study, and production of a thesis in accordance with the requirements set forward by Angelo State University’s Graduate School. Failure to participate and successfully complete the course results in a failure to graduate from the MSW program.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU. The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university’s Statement of Academic Integrity.

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft. It is the student’s responsibility to know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.
Students are encouraged to reach out to the instructor and ASU’s Writing Center for more information.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee responsible for reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is Ms. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Disability Services. Her office phone number is (325) 942-2047 and her university email address is dallas.swafford@angelo.edu.

**Incomplete Grade Policy**
It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11: Grading Procedures for more information.

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days**
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19: Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

**Copyright Policy**
Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**Syllabus Changes**
The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement.
It is the student’s responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manners:

- **Online** – www.angelo.edu/incident-form
- **Face-to-Face** – Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
- **Phone** – (325) 942-2022
- **Email** – michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the **Title IX Coordinator**. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State University’s policy, please visit [ASU’s Title IX webpage](#).

**Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course**

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion. The following points are the selected learning objectives for this course.
1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
3. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field
4. Learning how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth
5. Learning appropriate methods for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting numerical information

Links Used in the Syllabus

ASU Blackboard LMS
https://blackboard.angelo.edu

ASU Catalogs
https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/

ASU Honor Code
https://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf

ASU Operating Policy 10.19: Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day
https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of

ASU Statement of Academic Integrity

ASU Student Disability Services
https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/

ASU Student Handbook
https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/

ASU Title IX Information
https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/title-ix/

ASU Writing Center’s Academic Honesty Information
https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic_honesty.php

End of Syllabus