

# **Dept. of Social Work and Sociology**

## **SWK 6335 – Research for Practice**

### **Spring Semester 2022**



**Instructor: Anne M. Scaggs, Ed.D., LCSW**

**Email:** anne.scaggs@angelo.edu

**Phone:**

**Office:** Virtual

**Office Hours:** 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Collaborate sessions will take place on Wednesday @ 7p.m. Attendance is not mandatory but highly encouraged. The sessions will be recorded for those who cannot attend and I highly encourage viewing.**

**\* Please note that emails received after 5:00 p.m. will not be answered until the next day. Exceptions will be made for emergency situations at the discretion of the instructor.**

## **Course Information**

### **Course Description**

This course introduces the statistical methods used in generalist social work practice and research accentuating research-guided social work practice and practice-guided social work research. The course consists of online lectures and lab activities that focus on learning and conducting basic statistical analyses and interpreting statistical output. Students will learn the rudimentary statistical methods used in scientific inquiry and program evaluation as a master's level practitioner. Areas of emphasis throughout the course include the process in which statistical analysis informs social work practice and vice versa; the skills necessary for statistical analysis, interpretation, and application; and ethical, cultural, and professional value-related considerations. Lab activities include the introduction to the most recent version of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and practice exercises relating to the variety of statistical methods introduced and reviewed. Throughout the course, the ability to read, evaluate, and apply social work research in a systematic and critical manner is underscored.

### **Course Credits**

3 credit hours

### **Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses**

Formal admission to the MSW program, completion of all MSW foundation curriculum, and good standing in the MSW program.

### Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites, using ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint, and the ability to understand and apply the formatting and style guidelines of APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition are expectations of the Department of Social Work

### Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the program of study for the MSW, the graduate will be prepared to:

### Student Learning Outcomes

Mapping to Program Outcomes	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:	Student Learning Outcome By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:
Application of critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings	SPSS-related lab assignments; critiques of peer-reviewed journal articles; and the research paper	<b>Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice</b>

### Course Delivery

This is an online course offering. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#)

### Required Texts and Materials

Yegidis, B., Weinbach, R., & Myers, L. (2018). Research methods for social workers (8th ed.). Pearson. ISBN: 9780134512563

Yockey, R. D. (2018). SPSS demystified: A step-by-step guide to successful data analysis (3rd ed.). Routledge. ISBN: 9781138286283

#### IBM SPSS Statistics Grad Pack 27.0 STANDARD DOWNLOAD

- 6-month license – Windows or Mac
- There are several vendors for students from which you can purchase the 6-month license. All are currently about \$50.00.
- Most of these sites can be found at IBM's website: <https://www.ibm.com/products/spss-statistics-gradpack/details>.
- Students are responsible for purchase, download, and installation of the software. If difficulties with download and installation occur, contact the vendor's technical support for assistance.

## **Recommended Texts and Materials**

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: APA. ISBN:978-1-433-83216-1

*NOTE: All assignments submitted in this course are to be written in strict accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) Publication.*

## **Technology Requirements**

### **Testing via Respondus™ Monitor**

Access to 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 is one practice quiz: a short 10 question practice quiz over ASU trivia that is not graded. This tool will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through the practice quiz 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.

**To participate in one of ASU's distance education programs, you need this technology:**

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to Angelo State University's Distance Education website for further technology requirements:  
[Angelo State University's Distance Education Website](#)

## Topic Outline

The beginning of the course reviews the basic methodological issues related to evidence-based practice, the development of research questions and hypotheses, and the performance of the literature review. Subsequently, students are introduced to the execution of basic research practices, including sampling, measurement, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, and dissemination of research findings.

## Communication

I am available Monday -Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m. My preferred method of communication is email but I am also available, as needed, to meet in Collaborate. I can also meet virtually outside of my scheduled office hours by appointment.

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

- *Please note that emails received after 5 p.m. will be answered the following morning.*

**Written communication via email:** All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

**Virtual communication:** Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, Skype, etc.

## Grading

### Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
SPSS Lab Assignments	30%
Journal Article Critiques	30%
Research Paper	40%
Total	100%

### Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 90.00-100 points

B = 80.00-89.99 points

C = 70.00-79.99 points

D = 60.00-69.99 points

F = 0-59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

## 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 and Activity Descriptions

**\*Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.**

### Journal Article Critiques

**30%**

Students will review a total of 3 articles covering different research concepts (such as methodology, strengths and limitations of research design, and reliability and validity of measurement instruments) and write a critique of the article. Critiques must be at least two complete pages in body text (in addition to the required cover page and reference page). All critiques should be supported by course readings and at least two outside scholarly resources.

### SPSS Lab Assignments

**30%**

Students will submit 5 weekly SPSS assignments focusing on data analysis techniques relating to weekly course topics. Assignments will be completed using provided data sets and SPSS software provided by the university. Each lab assignment will have unique instructions and requirements depending on the weekly topics.

### Research Paper

**40%**

Students will write a research paper utilizing data sets publicly available and accessible via the Internet. Students will identify and locate their choices of data sets from a public source depending on their unique areas of interest. All papers must be supported by scholarly resources (e.g., journal articles, demographic data, think-tank research, government reports, etc.) and include data analysis, data interpretation, and a discussion of findings.

### Assignment Submission

All assignments **MUST** be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at [anne.scaggs@angelo.edu](mailto:anne.scaggs@angelo.edu) and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. **Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue.** This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

## **Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy**

### **Late Work Policy**

The course is set up on weekly modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. Late assignments are not accepted. Accommodations may be made on a case-by-case basis, but only for University-approved circumstances or prior approval of faculty. Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

## **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](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)<sup>2</sup>

### **Student Responsibility and Attendance**

**Online:** This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

**Note:** This course utilizes Collaborate to engage in role plays, case study, and interaction. A day and time will be offered for students. To have some flexibility, the sessions will be recorded for students to view at a time convenient to them. **Attendance is not mandatory.**

### **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](#).<sup>3</sup>

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

ASU 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](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>4</sup> The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
[dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

### **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](#)<sup>5</sup> for more information.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)<sup>6</sup> 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.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).<sup>7</sup>

### **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](#)<sup>8</sup> 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 manner:

Online: [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto: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's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).



## Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
Week 1 Jan. 18-23	<b>Review Syllabus</b> Read – Research for Social Workers (RMSW) – Chapters 3 and 11
Week 2 Jan. 24-30	<b>Read – SPSS Demystified – Chapters 1, 2, and 3</b>  <b>Collaborate Session</b>
Week 3 Jan. 31-Feb. 6	<b>Read – RMSW – Chapters 4 &amp; 5</b>  <b>Journal Critique 1 due 2/6 eod</b> <b>Collaborate Session</b>
Week 4 Feb. 7-13	<b>Read - SPSS Demystified - Chapter 4</b> <b>Collaborate Session</b>
Week 5 Feb. 14-20	<b>Read – RMSW – Chapters 7 &amp; 8</b> <b>Journal Critique 2 due 2/20 eod</b>
Week 6 Feb. 21-27	<b>Read – SPSS Demystified - Chapters 5, 6, &amp; 7</b> <b>SPSS Assignment 1 Due 2/27 eod</b> <b>Collaborate Session</b>
Week 7 Feb. 28-Mar. 6	<b>Read – RMSW – Chapters 9 &amp; 10</b> <b>Journal Critique 3 due 3/6 eod</b> <b>Collaborate Session</b>
Week 8 Mar. 7-13  <i>*** Spring Break: March 14-20</i>	<b>Read - SPSS Demystified – Chapters 8-11</b> <b>SPSS Assignment 2 due 3/13 eod</b> <b>Collaborate Session</b>
Week 9 Mar. 21-27	<b>Read – RMSW – Chapter 13</b>
Week 10 Mar. 28- Apr. 3	<b>Read – SPSS Demystified - Chapter 12</b> <b>SPSS Assignment 3 due 4/3 eod</b> <b>Collaborate Session</b>
Week 11 Apr. 4-10	<b>Read – SPSS Demystified - Chapter 15</b>
Week 12 Apr. 11-17	<b>Read – SPSS Demystified - Chapter 16</b> <b>SPSS Assignment 4 due 4/17 eod</b> <b>Collaborate Session</b>

Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
Week 13 Apr. 18-24	Read – SPSS Demystified - Chapter 13 Final Collaborate Session
Week 14 Apr. 25-May 1	Read – SPSS Demystified - Chapter 14 SPSS Assignment 5 due 5/1 eod
Week 15 May 2-8	Research Paper Due 5/8 eod
Week 16 May 9-13	Final Exam Week

## 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.

## End of Syllabus

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing\\_center/academic\\_honesty.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>