



USC | School of Social Work

Social Work 562

Social Work Research

3 Units

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Term: Fall 2014	60627		Tuesdays 1-3:50pm
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I. COURSE PREREQUISITES

None

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

SOWK 562 Social Work Research (3 units). Introduction to research methods, including conceptualization of research problems, literature review, research design, sampling, measurement, data collection and data analysis.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This foundation course is designed to provide an introduction to research methods and to produce an appreciation of the research process. It will explore general issues that are related to the conduct of social work research as applied to social work practice and service delivery in complex, urban environments.

In this course, students will review the characteristics and logical processes of social work research and understand the applicability of scientific and scholarly inquiry in advancing professional knowledge and improving social work practice to diverse clientele in numerous settings. Students will gain a conceptual and operational understanding of the various quantitative and qualitative methodologies used in the conduct of social work related research. Students will be prepared to participate in a range of research activities including (a) conceptualization of research problems; (b) review of the literature; (c) evaluation of research design; (d) sampling; (e) selection of measurement tools; (f) data collection; (g) basic interpretation of data analyses and (h) ethical considerations in the conduct of research with human participants. Attention will also focus on how racial, ethnic, gender, and lifestyle issues impact each stage of the research process.

Students will not be expected to carry out an actual study; however, they will complete a series of assignments that prepare them to utilize research as professional social workers. Students are coached to achieve a level of disciplined conceptual and analytical thinking in the process of developing their assignments and understanding and utilizing existing empirical literature.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Objective	Objectives
1	Teach basic research principles and concepts within the framework of ethical practice of professional social work. Identify the ethical issues involved in professional social work research, including informed consent, confidentiality, use and abuse of sensitive data, the issue of withholding treatment to control groups, and the honest disclosure of findings.
2	Provide opportunities for students to increase awareness of and be sensitive to issues in the research process as they relate to various diverse populations such as defined by gender, race, sexual orientation, social class, religion, and vulnerable and oppressed groups.
3	Teach and demonstrate the importance of the role of social work empirical research and evidence-based practice research as they apply to social work practice and policy. The principles of research will be presented and students will have opportunity to apply the principles to evidence search, review of the literature, and evidence appraisal in the context of individuals, groups or communities.
4	Present foundation-level research concepts and build student skills including the use of research terms and vocabulary, the skill of identifying relevant social work research questions and hypotheses, identifying independent, dependent and other variables, the measurement of variables including describing the concepts of reliability and validity, methods for sample selection, the exploration of research design options and key foundation-level statistical concepts including descriptive and inferential statistics.

V. COURSE FORMAT / INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Four primary learning/teaching modalities will be used in class: (1) didactic presentation by the instructor; (2) critical discussion, interaction, and transaction among the instructor and students; (3) facilitated problem-solving among students working around specific research questions, and (4) direct interaction with meaningful exercises that support students' conceptual development.

Please note that it may be necessary for the instructor to make adjustments to the syllabus during the semester.

VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning for this course relates to one or more of the following ten social work core competencies:

Social Work Core Competencies	SWK 562	Course Objective
1 Professional Identity		
2 Ethical Practice	*	1
3 Critical Thinking	*	3-4
4 Diversity in Practice	*	2
5 Human Rights & Justice		
6 Research Based Practice	*	3-4
7 Human Behavior		
8 Policy Practice		
9 Practice Contexts		
10 Engage, Assess, Intervene, Evaluate		

* Highlighted in this course

The following table explains the highlighted competencies for this course, the related student learning outcomes, and the method of assessment.

Competencies/ Knowledge, Values, Skills	Student Learning Outcomes	Method of Assessment
<p>Ethical Practice—Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.</p> <p>Social workers competent in Ethical Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fulfill their obligation to conduct themselves ethically and to engage in ethical decision-making. ▪ Are knowledgeable about the value base of the profession, its ethical standards, and relevant law. 	<p>1. Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to identify ethical issues that are present in research contexts and be able to discuss strategies that could be used to address ethical concerns. Standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, Belmont Principles, and Institutional Review Board (IRB) guidelines will serve as frameworks for considering ethical issues.</p>	<p>Quiz Questions Final Course Assessment Exam</p>

<p>Critical Thinking—Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.</p> <p>Social workers competent in Critical Thinking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are knowledgeable about the principles of logic, scientific inquiry, and reasoned discernment. Use critical thinking augmented by creativity and curiosity. Understand that critical thinking also requires the synthesis and communication of relevant information. 	2. Locate, distinguish, and appraise, multiple sources of knowledge that inform understanding of any social work research, practice, or policy question, informed by research based-knowledge and practice wisdom.	Research Portfolio
	3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication by accurately and consistently utilizing foundation-level research terms in both speaking and writing.	Quiz Questions Research Portfolio Final Course Assessment Exam Class Participation
	4. Identify key elements, interpret, and describe the meaning of results presented in research tables utilizing foundation-level statistical concepts.	Quiz Questions Final Course Assessment Exam

<p>Diversity in Practice—Engage diversity and difference in practice.</p> <p>Social workers competent in Diversity in Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how diversity characterizes and shapes the human experience and is critical to the formation of identity. Recognize that the dimensions of diversity reflect intersectionality of multiple factors including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. Appreciate that, as a consequence of difference, a person’s life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. 	5. Utilize an understanding of the fact that culture can shape the power structures faced by individuals and groups, articulate and promote attention to issues in the research process as they relate to diverse populations, such as racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, women, and a range of other groups.	Quiz Questions Final Course Assessment Exam Research Portfolio
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<p>Research Based Practice—Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.</p> <p>Social workers competent in Research Based Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use practice experience to inform research, employ evidence-based interventions, evaluate their own practice, and use research findings to improve practice, policy, and social service delivery. ▪ Comprehend quantitative and qualitative research and understand scientific and ethical approaches to building knowledge. 	<p>6. Articulate, orally and in writing, reasoned and relevant conclusions based on research findings that can inform practice, policy, and/or further research. This includes the ability to describe the relevance of research to the discipline of social work.</p>	<p>Research Portfolio Final Assessment Exam</p>
	<p>7. Identify and accurately describe the purpose of foundation-level research concepts and techniques utilized in published research. This includes the ability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify research questions and related hypotheses. b. Identify independent and dependent variables and describe how the concepts of reliability and validity affect the measurement strategies chosen. c. Identify and describe other foundation-level research techniques used in research such as methods for sample selection and research design options. 	<p>Quiz Questions Final Assessment Exam</p>

VII. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES & GRADING

Assignment	% of Final Grade
1) Research Portfolio (Assignments, 30%; Final Integrated Portfolio, 20%)	50%
2) In-Class Quizzes	20%
3) Sequence Final Assessment Exam	20%
4) Class Participation	10%

1) Research Portfolio Assignments (30% of Course Grade)

The primary assignment for the course will be the completion of a **Research Portfolio**, which includes a series of small interconnected assignments and one final Portfolio that connects all of the individual pieces into a unified approach to addressing a specific research question. The assignments are designed to allow students to apply the methodological content being learned in meaningful ways, and using a manageable approach. Grading for the entire Research Portfolio

process is designed to recognize that students will learn course material through application, with the final Portfolio providing an opportunity to integrate, correct, and extend on initial portfolio segments. The assignments that comprise the Research Portfolio are described briefly below.

Your instructor will provide additional handouts which outline the details of the research portfolio assignments.

Research Portfolio Part 1: Question Statement & Literature Search (Week 4)

Part A - Question Statement: The instructors will provide students with a list of researchable issues that address important social work problems and are aligned with the USC School of Social Work Research Clusters and Research Centers, which include:

- 1) Aging
- 2) Behavior, Health and Society
- 3) Child Development and Children's Services
- 4) Homelessness, Housing, and Social Environment
- 5) Management, Organizations and Policy Transformation
- 6) Military Social Work
- 7) Serious Mental Illness

By Week 4 students will decide upon their choice of a research cluster and question, which will be the focus of their Research Portfolio Assignment throughout the semester. Based on the selections, students will be placed into Research Cluster Groups that will meet both within and outside of class when necessary.

Part B - Literature Search: Locating existing research literature about a social work problem is a key skill that all social workers need to make evidence-informed decisions. Students will complete a literature search, and read and summarize articles related to their selected research question.

Research Portfolio Part 2: Variables and Measurement (Week 8)

Part A - Variables: At this point in the semester, students have learned about the different types of variables a social work researcher might include in developing a research study. Based upon the research question selected in week 4, students will turn in an assignment that covers the specific variables, their values, levels of measurement and operational definitions. As part of the course, the Research Cluster Group will also have an opportunity to discuss and critique each other's proposed variables and offer feedback.

Part B - Measurement: It is very likely that as a masters level social worker students will have responsibility for understanding and/or using specific tools for measuring outcomes. This will often involve selecting measurement instruments and utilizing other data collection techniques.

Based upon the student's research question, and the variables of interest, students will (1) find and critique a known scale or instrument to measure a variable related to their research question; and (2) identify an alternative method of measurement besides a known scale (e.g., self-report,

archival, biological, or observation) and describe the merits and drawbacks to using this approach in your strategy for addressing the research question.

Research Portfolio Part 3: Sampling & Research Design (Week 11)

Part A - Sampling: Of course, in order to answer a research question through data collection or use of data, one would need to identify research participants. In this assignment, students will complete a sampling overview, answering key questions such as: Who or what would you include as “participants” in your research? How would you identify them and specifically how would you recruit them into your proposed study? What are the strengths and limitations of your sampling approach?

Part B - Research Design: By this week, students have had the opportunity to identify a number of research designs commonly used to test research questions. In this assignment, students will be expected to complete a short paper describing the research design that might be used to answer their research question. Students should describe whether they would use an experimental, quasi-experimental, pre-experimental, or correlational design; the strengths and drawbacks of their chosen design; and the feasibility of implementing this design in the real world.

Research Portfolio Part 4: Statistics Application (Week 13)

Part A. Applied Descriptive Statistics: Although SOWK 562 is not a *statistics* course where computational statistical analysis is expected, professional social workers need to understand some basic applied statistical concepts. By this week students will have been exposed to a number of descriptive statistics. Students will select variables and describe basic descriptive statistics they would choose to summarize the data, and discuss how these descriptive statistics help to understand the participants and the research.

Part B. Applied Correlational or Inferential Statistics: In consultation with the instructor and the Research Cluster Group, students will choose one of several options for identifying the relationship between at least two variables that can be explored using inferential statistics. Students will describe the inferential statistical model and how it would help them to understand the relationship between the variables. Issues and factors that might impact this relationship will also be discussed.

Timely Submission of all Research Portfolio Assignments: (Participation Grade)

Students will be expected to turn in all Portfolio assignments on or before the designated due dates. If all deadlines are met and work submitted reflects a meaningful attempt at responding to the assignment, 2.5% of the total participation grade will be offered. See Portfolio Assignment Rubric for consequences of late submissions.

Final Integrated Research Portfolio (20% of Course Grade) (Week 14)

Based upon feedback obtained through their Research Cluster groups and the instructor throughout the semester, students are expected to submit a final and integrated portfolio of all assignments described above in the Research Portfolio section. The integrated portfolio should contain updated versions of all prior portfolio pieces, incorporating responses to feedback received during the semester and any further thoughts developed over the course of the semester. **The final document should contain two additional sections, an Overview section that quickly summarizes the overall research approach, and a second section titled Strengths and Limitations that summarizes the strengths and limitations of the research approach.**

2) Quizzes (20% of Course Grade)

There will be **four** short in-class quizzes, each worth 5% of the course grade. The quizzes will consist of short answer items and vignette-based questions. Quizzes will be held during class. Quizzes will typically be administered during Weeks 5, 9, 12 and 14, **however this may vary by instructor and may be changed based on coverage of the needed material.**

4) Final Assessment Exam (20% of Course Grade)

Students will complete a final assessment exam, which will measure their ability to apply the knowledge acquired during the course. Vignettes and descriptions from published research articles will be presented and students will be asked to answer questions about specific aspects of research methodology including ethics, research design, sampling, measurement, and interpretation of statistical results. The exam will be administered during Finals Week, as per the USC Finals Week Schedule for the cohort. Please check the date of the Final Assessment Exam to ensure your availability.

5) Class Participation (10% of Course Grade)

Students are expected to contribute to the development of a positive learning environment and to demonstrate their learning through written and oral assignments and through active class participation. Class participation should consist of meaningful, thoughtful, and respectful participation based on having completed required readings and assignments prior to class. This includes timely completion of the Research Portfolio Assignments and any required homework. Demonstrated participation in the Research Cluster Groups is also expected. When in class, students should demonstrate their understanding of the material and be prepared to offer comments or reflections about the material, or alternatively, to have a set of thoughtful questions about the material. Failure to meet these expectations will result in the reduction of grades. Your instructor will provide a rubric for grading class participation. Class participation is worth 10 percent of the final grade.

Class grades will be based on the following:

Class Grades		Final Grade	
3.85 – 4	A	93 – 100	A
3.60 – 3.84	A-	90 – 92	A-
3.25 – 3.59	B+	87 – 89	B+

Class Grades		Final Grade	
2.90 – 3.24	B	83 – 86	B
2.60 – 2.89	B-	80 – 82	B-
2.25 – 2.59	C+	77 – 79	C+
1.90 – 2.24	C	73 – 76	C
		70 – 72	C-

Within the School of Social Work, grades are determined in each class based on the following standards which have been established by the faculty of the School: (1) grades of A or A- are reserved for student work which not only demonstrates very good mastery of content, but which also shows that the student has undertaken a complex task, has applied critical thinking skills to the assignment, and/or has demonstrated creativity in her or his approach to the assignment. The difference between these two grades is determined by the degree to which these skills have been demonstrated by the student; (2) a grade of B+ is given to work which is judged to be very good—this grade denotes that a student has demonstrated a more-than competent understanding of the material being tested in the assignment; (3) a grade of B is given to student work which meets the basic requirements of the assignment—it denotes that the student has done adequate work on the assignment and meets basic course expectations; (4) a grade of B- denotes that a student's performance was less than adequate on an assignment, reflecting only moderate grasp of content and/or expectations; (5) a grade of C reflects a minimal grasp of the assignments, poor organization of ideas and/or several significant areas requiring improvement; (6) grades between C- and F are applied to denote a failure to meet minimum standards, reflecting serious deficiencies in all aspects of a student's performance on the assignment.

VIII. REQUIRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Required Textbooks

Rubin, A. & Babbie, E. (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.

Suggested Additional Resources

Guides for APA Style Formatting

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

APA formatting and style guide. (1995-2011). The OWL at Purdue. Retrieved from

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

(Instructor Note: Note: this popular site for students—it is free, has switched to 6th edition.)

Winn, J. (2010). APA style: USC Lib Guides. Available at

<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=26798&sid=639172>

(Instructor Note: HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.)

USC Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism. Available at

<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=83009&sid=616087>

Note: Additional required and recommended readings may be assigned by the instructor throughout the course.

Course Overview

The table below describes the topics for each class session, due dates for assignments and dates for quizzes and the final exam. This schedule may vary based on semester start date, holidays and other factors.

Week/Date	Topics	Assignments & Exams
1 August 26, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Course Introduction and Overview ■ The What and Why of Social Work Research ■ The Scientific Method ■ Introduction to Evidence Based Practice 	
2 September 2, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Types of Research in Social Work ■ Social Work Research Clusters: Portfolio Context ■ Research Question: Guide Research Portfolio ■ Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods ■ Formulating research questions and hypotheses 	
3 September 9, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduction to Research Methods in Social Work ■ Factors Influencing the Research Process ■ Literature Review: Finding Relevant Research, Data, and Instruments (in Agency Context and EBP Context) 	
4 September 16, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ethical Issues ■ Belmont Principles ■ Institutional Review Boards ■ Cultural Competence in Social Work Research 	<i>Research Portfolio #1</i>
5 September 23, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Research Concepts, Theories, and Schools of Thought ■ Variables: The Conceptualization of Research ■ Values and Levels of Measurement ■ Introduction to Measurement of Concepts 	<i>IN-CLASS QUIZ #1 – Social Work Research and Ethics</i>
6 September 30, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Measurement Principles ■ Reliability and Validity 	
7 October 7, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Discussion of Known Scale or Instrument ■ Location and Assessment of Measurements ■ Use of Archival, Biological, Self-Report, Observation 	
8 October 14, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sampling Techniques and Considerations ■ Probability and Non-Probability Sampling ■ Randomization Selection and Assignment ■ External Validity and Generalization 	<i>Research Portfolio #2</i>

9 October 21, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Qualitative Research Methods ■ Phenomenology ■ Ethnography ■ Participatory Action Research ■ Grounded Theory ■ Case Studies, Video, Photography, Others 	<i>IN-CLASS QUIZ #2 – Sampling, Variables and Measurement</i>
October 28, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduction to Research Design ■ Threats to Internal Validity ■ Matching Purpose to Design ■ Survey Research Designs ■ Pre, Quasi, and True-Experimental Designs ■ Group Designs 	
11 November 4, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Quantitative Statistics - Descriptive Statistics ■ Mining Existing Data ■ Data Set Exploration 	<i>Research Portfolio #3</i>
12 November 11, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Quantitative Statistics – Inferential Statistics ■ Understanding and Describing Associations Among Variables ■ Statistical Significance ■ Correlation Statistics ■ Effect Size 	<i>IN-CLASS QUIZ #3 – Research Design</i>
13 November 18, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Examples of Bivariate Statistical Tests ■ Multivariate Statistics ■ Critical Assessment Skills in Becoming Effective Consumers of Social Work and Related Literature ■ Practice and Policy Links 	<i>Research Portfolio #4</i>
14 November 25, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consultation Meetings with Instructor 	<i>IN-CLASS QUIZ #4 – Statistics</i>
15 December 2, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Course Wrap Up and Evaluation ■ Review for Final Assessment Exam 	<i>Final Research Integrated Portfolio Due</i>
16 December 9, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Final Assessment Exam during Finals Week 	<i>Final Assessment Exam</i>

Course Schedule—Detailed Description

Unit 1: Course Overview and Social Work Research ProblemsAugust 26,
2014**Topics**

- Course Introduction and Overview
- The What and Why of Social Work Research
- The Scientific Method
- Introduction to Evidence Based Practice

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
 Chapter 1: Why Study Research?
 Chapter 2: Evidenced Based Practice

Unit 2: Types of Social Work Research

Sept 2, 2014

Topics

- Types of Research in Social Work
- Social Work Research Clusters: Portfolio Context
- Selection of Research Question to Guide Research Portfolio
- Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods
- Formulating Research Questions and Hypotheses

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
 Chapter 3: Comparing Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods of Inquiry
 Chapter 4: Factors Influencing the Research Process

Recommended Readings

USC guide to avoiding plagiarism. (n.d.). Available at
<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=83009&sid=616087>

Select this link for specific hints: Trojan integrity: a guide to avoiding plagiarism.
 Available at <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tig.pdf>

Unit 3: Factors Influencing the Research Process**September 9,
2014****Topics**

- Introduction to Research Methods in Social Work
- Factors Influencing the Research Process
- Literature Review: Finding Relevant Research and Data (in Agency Context and EBP Context)

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
Chapter 5: Reviewing Literature and Developing Research Questions

Unit 4: Ethical Issues and Cultural Competence in Social Work Research**Sept 16****Topics****Research Portfolio: Part 1 Due**

- Experiments with Questionable Ethics that Have Led to Modern Ethical Standards
- Belmont Principles
- List of Ethical Guidelines for Social Science Research
- Institutional Review Boards
- Culturally Competent Research

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
Chapter 16: Ethical Issues in Social Work Research
Chapter 17: Culturally Competent Research

Unit 5: Variables and Introduction to Measurement Concepts**Sept 23****Topics****Quiz #1**

- Research Concepts, Theories, and Schools of Thought
- Variables: The Conceptualization of Research
- Values and Levels of Measurement
- Introduction to Measurement Concepts

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
Chapter 6: Conceptualization in Quantitative and Qualitative Inquiry

Unit 6: Measurable Principles: Reliability and Validity**Sept 30****Topics**

- Measurement Principles
- Validity and Reliability
- Types of Validity
- Types of Reliability
- Reliability Statistics: Cronbach, Pearson, and Kappa

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
Chapter 6: Conceptualization in Quantitative and Qualitative Inquiry (Review)
Chapter 7: Measurement in Quantitative and Qualitative Inquiry

Unit 7: Measurement: Known Scales and Instruments and Others**Oct 7****Topics**

- Discussion of Known Scale or Instrument
- Location and Assessment of Measurements
- Archival Data: Agency Records, Public Data and Other Sources
- Biological Data: Blood Samples, Saliva
- Self-report: Interviews, Survey Questionnaires
- Observation

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
Chapter 8: Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement Instruments
Chapter 9: Surveys

American Psychological Association. (2010). *FAQ/Finding information about psychological tests*. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/science/programs/testing/find-tests.aspx>

Unit 8: Sampling Techniques and Considerations**Oct 14****Topics**

- Sampling Techniques and Considerations
- Probability and Non-Probability Sampling
- Randomization Selection and Assignment
- External Validity and Generalization

Research Portfolio: Part 2 Due**Required Readings**

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
Chapter 10: Sampling: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches

Other Resources for this Unit

Connexions Consortium. (2010). *Sampling simulation*. Retrieved from

<http://cnx.org/content/m11188/latest/>

Haahr, M. (2010). *Random integer generator*. Retrieved from <http://www.random.org/integers/>

Wiley Higher Education. (2010). Statistics animations. In *Instructor companion site. Mann introductory statistics* (5th ed.). Retrieved from <http://bcs.wiley.com/he->

[bcs/Books?action=mininav&bcsId=1524&itemId=0471448079&assetId=39918&resourceId=3251](http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=mininav&bcsId=1524&itemId=0471448079&assetId=39918&resourceId=3251)

Unit 9: Qualitative Research Methods**Oct 21****Topics**

- Qualitative Research Methods
- Phenomenology
- Ethnography
- Participatory Action Research
- Grounded Theory
- Case Studies, Video, Photography, Others
- Qualitative Data Analysis and Coding

Quiz #2**Required Readings**

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
Chapter 14: Additional Methods in Qualitative Inquiry
Chapter 19: Qualitative Data Analysis

VIDEO (20-min): *Depression is a Diseases of Civilization*. Stephen Ilardi at TedxEmpory:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drv3BP0Fdi8>

Unit 10: Introduction to Research Designs: Matching Purpose to Design

Oct 28

Topics

- Introduction to Research Design
- Threats to Internal Validity
- Matching Purpose to Design
- Survey Research Designs
- Pre-experimental, Experimental and Quasi-experimental Designs
- Group Designs

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
 Chapter 11: Experiments and Quasi-experiments

Unit 11: Quantitative Statistics: Descriptive Statistics

Nov 4

Topics

Research Portfolio: Part 3 Due

- Quantitative Statistics – Descriptive Statistics
- Mining Existing Data
- Data Set Exploration
- Understanding and Describing Characteristics of Samples
 - Central Tendency
 - Variability / Dispersion

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
 Chapter 18: Quantitative Data Analysis

Hoffman, R. D. (2003). Internet glossary of statistical terms. Retrieved from

<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/statglos/statglos.htm>

(Instructor Note: Look at descriptions of: Mean, Median, Mode, Range, Variance, Standard Deviation, Variance, Sampling Distribution, Statistic, Parameter, Null Hypothesis, Alternative Hypothesis, Statistical Hypothesis, Alpha, Statistical Significance, Type I error, Type II Error, Beta, The Relationship Between Alpha, Beta and Power.)

Unit 12: Quantitative Statistics: Associations Among Variables**Nov 11****Topics****Quiz #3**

- Quantitative Statistics – Inferential Statistics
- Statistical Significance
- Correlation Statistics
- Effect Size
- Understanding and Describing Associations Among Variables

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work, 3rd Edition*.
Chapter 18: Quantitative Data Analysis

Hoffman, R. D. (2003). Internet glossary of statistical terms. Retrieved from

<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/statglos/statglos.htm>

(Instructor Note: Look at descriptions of: Mean, Median, Mode, Range, Variance, Standard Deviation, Variance, Sampling Distribution, Statistic, Parameter, Null Hypothesis, Alternative Hypothesis, Statistical Hypothesis, Alpha, Statistical Significance, Type I error, Type II Error, Beta, The Relationship Between Alpha, Beta and Power.)

Lane, D. M. (2008). *Chapter 9: Logistics of hypothesis testing/ Ruling out chance as an explanation*. Rice Virtual Lab in Statistics. Retrieved from

http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/logic_hypothesis.html

Unit 13: Quantitative Statistics: Inferential Statistics and Hypothesis Testing**Nov 18****Topics****Research Portfolio: Part 4 Due**

- Examples of Bivariate Statistical Tests
- Multivariate Statistics: The Big Idea
- Critical Assessment Skills in Becoming Effective Consumers of Social Work and Related Literature
- Practice and Policy Links

Required Readings

Center for Teaching and Engaged Learning: Lesson 4 – Independent Samples t-test
http://eweb.furman.edu/~lpace/SPSS_Tutorials/lesson4.html

Unit 14: Research Portfolio Consultation

Nov 25

Topics

Quiz #4

- Research Portfolio Consultation With Instructor

Unit 15: Course Wrap Up, Evaluations and Final Exam Review

Dec 2

Topics

Final Research Integrated Portfolio Due

- Course Wrap Up
- Course Evaluations
- Final Exam Review

Unit 16: FINAL ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION

Dec 9

Finals Week

Topics

- Final Exam

University Policies and Guidelines

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend every class and, if on the VAC, to remain in the synchronous online class for the duration of the class. Failure to attend class, arriving late or lack of active participation may impact your ability to achieve course objectives, which could affect your course grade. Students are expected to notify the instructor by email of any anticipated absence or reason for tardiness.

University of Southern California policy permits students to be excused from class, without penalty, for the observance of religious holy days. This policy also covers scheduled final examinations that conflict with students' observance of a holy day. Students must make arrangements in advance to complete class work that will be missed, or to reschedule an examination, due to holy days observance. Please refer to Scampus and to the USC School of Social Work Student Handbook for additional information on attendance policies.

VAC Students are expected to follow Virtual Academic Center guidelines about appropriate conduct and attendance in synchronous live session. In consideration of classmates and the instructor, students are asked to keep external distractions that might interfere with class to a minimum.

X. STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

Additionally, it should be noted that violations of academic integrity are not only violations of USC principles and policies, but also violations of the values of the social work profession.

XI. STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. *Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible.* Instructors are not permitted to provide accommodations without this letter. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. The Office of

Disability Services and Programs is aware of the USC School of Social Work Virtual Academic Center and will work with students on the mailing and electronic transfer of needed documents and verifications.

XII. EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

Note: The following Emergency Response Information pertains to students on campus, but please note its importance should you be on campus for a temporary or extended period. When not on campus: Call the 911 listing in your local community for any emergency.

To receive information, call the main number (213) 740-2711, press #2. “For recorded announcements, events, emergency communications or critical incident information.”

To leave a message, call (213) 740-8311

For additional university information, please call (213) 740-9233

Or visit university website: <http://emergency.usc.edu>

If it becomes necessary to evacuate the building, please go to the following locations carefully and using stairwells only. Never use elevators in an emergency evacuation.

Students may also sign up for a **USC Trojans Alert** account to receive alerts and emergency notifications on their cell phone, pager, PDA, or e-mail account. Register at <https://trojansalert.usc.edu>.

UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS		ACADEMIC CENTERS	
City Center	Front of Building (12 th & Olive)	Orange County	Faculty Parking Lot
MRF	Lot B	San Diego	Building Parking Lot
SWC	Lot B	Skirball	Front of Building
VKC	McCarthy Quad		
WPH	McCarthy Quad		

Do not re-enter the building until given the “all clear” by emergency personnel.

XIII. STATEMENT ABOUT INCOMPLETES

The Grade of Incomplete (IN) can be assigned only if there is work not completed because of a documented illness or some other emergency occurring after the 12th week of the semester. Students must NOT assume that the instructor will agree to the grade of IN. Removal of the grade of IN must be instituted by the student and agreed to be the instructor and reported on the official “Incomplete Completion Form.”

XIV. POLICY ON LATE OR MAKE-UP WORK

Papers are due on the day and time specified. Extensions will be granted only for extenuating circumstances. If the paper is late without permission, the grade will be affected. Your instructor

will provide you with details about his or her policies regarding late papers, but generally, it is a half a grade per day.

XV. POLICY ON CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS AND/OR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

It may be necessary to make some adjustments to the syllabus during the semester in order to respond to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances. Adjustments that are made will be communicated to students both verbally and in writing.

XVI. CODE OF ETHICS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Approved by the 1996 NASW Delegate Assembly and revised by the 2008 NASW Delegate Assembly [<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/Code/code.asp>]

Preamble

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual wellbeing in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. "Clients" is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in the form of direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history, are the foundation of social work's unique purpose and perspective:

- SERVICE
- SOCIAL JUSTICE
- DIGNITY AND WORTH OF THE PERSON
- IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS
- INTEGRITY
- COMPETENCE

This constellation of core values reflects what is unique to the social work profession. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience.

XVII. COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint or concern about the course or the instructor, please discuss it first with the instructor. If you feel you cannot discuss it with the instructor, contact the Research Sequence Chair, Dr. Alice Cepeda, at alicecep@usc.edu or the SOWK 562 Faculty Lead Instructor, Dr. Juan Carlos Araque, at araque@usc.edu. If you do not receive a satisfactory response or solution, contact your advisor for further guidance.

XVIII. TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN THIS COURSE

- ✓ Be mindful of getting proper nutrition, exercise, rest and sleep!
- ✓ Come to class.
- ✓ Complete required readings and assignments BEFORE coming to class.
- ✓ BEFORE coming to class, review the materials from the previous Unit AND the current Unit, AND scan the topics to be covered in the next Unit.
- ✓ Come to class prepared to ask any questions you might have.
- ✓ Participate in class discussions.
- ✓ AFTER you leave class, review the materials assigned for that Unit again, along with your notes from that Unit.
- ✓ If you don't understand something, ask questions! Ask questions in class, during office hours, and/or through email!
- ✓ Keep up with the assigned readings.

Don't procrastinate or postpone working on assignments.
