

USC | School of Social Work

Social Work 629

Research and Evaluation for Community, Organization, & Business Environments

3 Units

Instructor: Juan Carlos Araque, PhD

E-Mail: araque@usc.edu Course Day: Tuesday
Telephone: 949-437-0019 Course Time: 1:00 – 3:50 pm
Office: OCAC 110 Course Location: Classroom C
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-12

I. COURSE PREREQUISITES

SOWK 503, SOWK 534, SOWK 535, SOWK 543, AND SOWK 562

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on research and evaluation skills, critical analysis in understanding different types of data, and utilizing data information systems to inform decision making and improve effectiveness of social work practice in community, organization, and business environments.

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course builds on the Social Work Research course in the first semester of the MSW program. The course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to critically analyze and apply research evidence to inform and enhance social work practice within community, organization and business environments. Specifically, students will develop skills in: 1) collecting data to not only determine if something worked, but more importantly, know what works, for whom, and under what conditions; 2) systematically analyzing various types of data (e.g., empirical data, databases, technical reports) to conduct rigorous program evaluations; 3) identifying and utilizing research based assessments; and 4) developing evidence to inform decision-making and enhance the impact of social work practice.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Research and Evaluation for Community, Organization, and Business Environments course (SOWK 629) will focus on the following objectives:

Objective #	Objectives
1	Create a learning environment that provides opportunities to increase awareness of how scientific research and social work practice are interdependent and serve as a basis for enhancing their professional identity as social workers.
2	Provide instruction in the practices of professional social work, basic research methods and data analysis in order to prepare students to conduct a organization data analysis, needs assessment, and program evaluation.

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Objective #	Objectives
3	Prepare students to critically assess the quality and utility of evidenced-based practices.
4	Emphasize the utilization of publicly available databases so that students are able to access basic research evidence to inform practice-based questions and communicate this information to organizational leaders and key stakeholders.
5	Prepare students to engage in the process of evidence-informed decision-making to enhance the effectiveness of their social work practice. This includes the identification and critical evaluation of assessments, conceptual frameworks and evidence-based interventions. Emphasis will be placed on context and diversity, as well as ethical and political considerations of how research evidence is developed and may affect their decision-making.

V. Course format / Instructional Methods

Delivery of this course will be learner-centered. As such, students' field and class experiences will be geared towards discovery through applied learning. The COPA learning experience will include lectures, class discussions, case studies/guest speakers, presentations and small group activities. Students will be grouped based on similar areas of interest and/or service settings (e.g., community, organization, business environments). Group members will have shared responsibility for the completion of weekly group exercises. But, each student is responsible for completing his/her own assignments. Data-based reports, examples and materials from the field will be used to illustrate key concepts and provide an integration of theory into practice. Through group interactions, students will gradually assume more independent responsibilities for learning, while the role of the instructor will shift toward that of consultant, facilitator and resource person.

The online teaching and learning environment will be provided by the University's Blackboard Academic Suite (OTG) or the Virtual Academic Center (VAC). It will support and facilitate student learning, communication and interaction, as well as access to instructor support.

VI. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students' learning for this course relates to one or more of the following nine social work competencies as established in March, 2015 by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE):

	Social Work Competencies	SOWK 629	Course Objective
1	Ethical and Professional Behavior		
2	Diversity and Difference in Practice		
3	Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice		
4	Practice-informed Research and Research Informed Practice	*	3, 4 & 5
5	Policy Practice		
6	Engagement	*	1, 3, 4 & 5
7	Assessment	*	3, 4 & 5
8	Intervention		
9	Evaluation	*	3, 4 & 5

^{*} Highlighted in this course

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

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Competencies/ Knowledge, Values, Skills	Student Learning Outcomes	Method of Assessment
Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice	 Use practice experience and theory to inform social work inquiry; Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods and research findings; Use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery. 	Assignments 1-3 Presentations Class Participation
Assess Organizations, Communities, and Business Environments	 Collect, organize, and critically analyze and interpret information from client systems. Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-inenvironment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the assessment of data from client systems. Develop mutually agreed-on intervention goals and objectives based on the critical assessment of strengths, needs, and challenges within client systems. 	Assignments 1-3 Class Participation

 Evaluate Practice within Organization, Community, and Business Environments 	7.	Select and use existing methods or develop social innovative methods for the evaluation of processes outcomes;	Assignment 3
	8.	Critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate intervention processes and outcomes;	Assignment 3

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VII. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES & GRADING

Assignment	Due Date	% Of Final Grade
Assignment 1: Organizational Data Analysis	Unit 4	15%
Assignment 2: Needs Assessment	Unit 8	30%
Assignment 3: Process Evaluation	Unit 14	30%
Assignment 4: Agency Presentations	Units 14 & 15	15%
Class Participation	Ongoing	10%

Each of the four assignments described below will be based on a semester-long, group project (teams should be no more than 4 students) that focuses on the context in which social workers are working. Each team will be partnered with the same collaborating agency assigned in SOWK 648.

Collaborating agencies will go through a Request for Proposals (RFP) and selection process prior to the Spring Semester. Agencies will have a clear understanding of student outcomes and products. Students and agencies will receive more detailed information on each assignment during class.

Assignment 1: Organizational Data Analysis (15% of Course Grade)

This assignment requires students to analyze: 1) an organization's data environment, 2) how data influences the organization, and 3) the data collection and storage processes that are used by the organization. The 3-5 page paper should answer the following questions

- How are data collected?
- Who collects the data?
- What is the frequency and timing of data collection?
- Where are the data stored?
- Who enters the data?
- How are people trained?
- Are there policies associated with data entry?
- What databases does the agency enter data into, etc.?
- What are the data used for?
- What are the data influences on the organization?
- What is the culture around data?
- Are there power/control issues?

More details will be provided in a separate document.

Due: Unit 4

Assignment 2: Needs Assessment (30% of Course Grade)

In this assignment students design and execute a needs assessment for an existing program in the collaborating agency. For this assignment, identify and select a problem in the program and develop a plan to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the program using or collecting program data. Your evaluation should include the following steps 1) defining the social problem; 2) developing a needs assessment survey; 3) identifying target intervention; 4) develop data collection plan; 5) analyzing and displaying data; and 6) communicating and disseminating findings of needs. Each team is expected to present to the class the steps they will be taking to carry out their needs assessment. More details will be provided in a separate document.

Due: Unit 8

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Assignment 3: Process Evaluation (30% of Course Grade)

Building upon the previous two assignments, each team will prepare a process evaluation that examines how a program delivers services, and what administrative mechanisms exist within the program and agency that support the services it offers. Each team is required to complete a summary report of their process evaluation. This comprehensive final paper will include: 1) developing questions for the process evaluation; 2) developing data collecting instruments; 3) developing a data collection monitoring system; 4) scoring and analyzing data and 5) developing a feedback system disseminating and communicating results. This final report should also discuss the implications of the findings for the agency/program. Recommendations to the agency should also include a program innovation component with high potential to enhance, support and sustain the evaluated program. Details on this assignment will be provided in class

Due: Unit 14

Assignment 4: Agency Presentation (15% of Course Grade)

Students will be asked to present their process evaluation findings, organizational assessment, and implementation plan to their partner agency. The audience for the presentation will be up to each student group and partner agency and may include (but are not limited to): Agency Administration, Board of Directors, Constituency, Stakeholders, and/or Community Members. Presentations will be evaluated on level of professionalism, clarity, impact, and insights.

Due: Presentations are expected to be completed by Unit 15.

Student class participation is worth 10% of the grade. This will be based on student participation in class discussion, in-class exercises, and group activities. 5% of your grade will be based on your participation in the CommLab that will be part of this course.

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+
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

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:

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 would be determined by the degree to which these skills have demonstrated by the student.

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.

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.

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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.

A grade of C reflects a minimal grasp of the assignments, poor organization of ideas and/or several significant areas requiring improvement.

Grades between C- and F 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

This course requires two text to address the breadth of content covered in this course and promote integration of knowledge gained from courses completed during graduate school. This course also recommends the use of texts that have been used in previous courses, and other resources, as identified below.

Required Textbooks

Grinnell Jr., R. M., Gabor, P. A., & Unrau, Y.A. (2012). *Program evaluation for social workers: Foundations of evidence based programs*. (Sixth Edition). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Rubin, A. & Babbie, E. (2013). Essential research methods for social work (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Note: Additional readings may be assigned by the insructor throughout the course.

Recommended Guidebook for APA Style Formatting

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

Recommended Websites

American Evaluation Association: http://www.eval.org/

Health Compass: http://www.healthcompass.org

Healthy Cities: http://www.healthycity.org

MangoMap: https://mangomap.com

National Associate of Social Workers

http://www.naswdc.org

Oxford Academic Group: Program Evaluation Resources

http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780195308068/EvalRes/?view=usa

The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC): http://www.cebc4cw.org/

The Elements of Style

http://www.bartleby.com/141/

(Instructor Note: A rule book for writing.)

USC Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism

http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct/ug_plag.htm.

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

Course Overview

Unit	Topics Course Overview	Assignments
	MODULE 1: THE VALUE OF EVALUATION AND RESE	
1	Research & Evaluation for Social Workers	
Aug 25	Welcome and introductions	
3 G	 Course overview and review of syllabus 	
	 Social work perspective on research & evaluation 	
	 Review of Research Methods (SOWK 562 course) 	
2	Building on the Science of Social Work Research	
Sept 1	Methods 101	
	 Scientific Inquiry: purpose of research 	
	 Conceptualization and Measurement 	
	Sampling	
3	Trends and Innovations in Research	
Sept	 The ways community based organizations and 	
8	businesses use data	
	 Applying research evidence in social work practice 	
	Using research and evidence in social work practice	
	BIG Data	
	 The person-in-environment perspective 	
	 The program-in-environment perspective 	
	MODULE 2: EVALUATION METHODS & APPROACHES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS	
4 Sept 15	Approaches and Frameworks for Evaluating Social Work Practice	ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE
Sept 13	Deciding what questions to ask	
	Developing Data Collection Instruments	
	Formative and summative evaluations	
	Efficiency Evaluation	
5	STRAEGIC MANAGEMENT & EVALUATION TOOLKIT	
Sept 22	INTENSIVE: Identifying strengths, resources, needs, and capacity	
	 Needs Assessment 	
	Asset Mapping	
	Strenghts, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats	
	(SWOT) Analysis	
	Logic Models	

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Unit	Tonics	Accianments
Unit	Topics Obtaining New Pater Sympos Paralamment	Assignments
6	Obtaining New Data: Survey Development	
Sept 29	Measurement strategies for evaluation in communities, organizations and businesses	
	Data extraction forms for existing document or dataset	
	reviews	
	• Surveys	
	Focus Groups	
	 Interviews 	
	Observations	
	 Existing scales for businesses, organizations and communities 	
	Surveys	
	What is a survey?	
	How are surveys delivered? (online, in-person, via phone, via really star)	
	via mail, etc) • How to build a survey?	
	How to build a survey?How to analyze survey data?	
	Tiow to dilalyzo ourvey data.	
MODULE 3:	USING RESEARCH & EVALUATION TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS & SERVIC	E DELIVERY
7	Making Decisions with Data -PART I	
Oct 6	Data information Systems	
	Managing Data	
	Writing Reports	
8	Making Decisions with Data –PART II	ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE
Oct 13	 Developing a Data Collection & Monitoring System 	
	Scoring and Analyzing Data	
	Developing a Feedback System	
	Disseminating and Communicating Results	
9	Process Evaluation	
Oct 20	Developing a Feedback System	
	Scoring and Analyzing Data	
	Developing a feedback System	
	Disseminating and Communicating Results	
10	Outcome Evaluation	
Oct 27	Results, Outcomes, Indicators	
OCI 21		
	 Relationship between Formative and Summative Evaluation Client Satisfaction versus Client Outcomes 	
	Client Satisfaction versus Client Outcomes	

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Unit	Topics	Assignments
11 Nov 3	 Using Data for Capacity Building Needs and Services Identifying key findings and lessons learned Identifying and addressing evaluation obstacles and limitations Evidence Informed Decision Making for Practice 	
12 Nov 10	 Knowledge Transfer and Innovations in Social Work Current empirical research Current innovations in social work 	
13 Nov 17	Developing Recommendations & Team Consultation Sessions	
14 Dec 1	Team Presentations	ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE
15 Dec 8	Team Presentations and Course Evaluation	

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629 Course Schedule—Detailed Description

Module 1: THE VALUE OF EVALUATION AND REASEACH

Unit 1: The Big Picture of Research & Evaluation for Social Workers

Topics

- Welcome and introductions
- Course overview and review of syllabus
- Social work perspective on research & evaluation
- Intensive: Research Review

This Unit relates to course objectives 1 and 2.

Required Readings

Rubin, A. (2014). Efforts to Bridge the Gap Between Research and Practice in Social Work Precedents and Prospects: Keynote Address at the Bridging the Gap Symposium. *Research on Social Work Practice*, doi:1049731514535852

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). Research methods for social work (8th ed.).

Chapter 1: Why Study Research?, pp. 2-26 Chapter 2: Evidence-Based Practice, pp. 27-49

Unit 2: Introduction to Social Work Research Methods

Topics

- Mixed Methods of Inquiry
- Cultural Competent Research
- Conceptualization and Measurement
- Sampling

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Required Readings

Rubin, A & Babbie, R (2013). Research methods for social work (8th ed.).

Chapter 4: Comparing Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Methods of Inquiry, pp. 77-92

Chapter 6: Culturally Competent Research, pp. 124-150

Grinnell Jr., R. M., Gabor, P. A., & Unrau, Y.A. (2012). *Program evaluation for social workers: Foundations of evidence based programs.* (Sixth Edition). New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Chapter 13: Data Sources, Sampling, and Data collection, pp 269-275

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Unit 3: Trends and Innovations in Research & Evaluation

Topics

- The ways community based organizations and businesses use data
- Applying research evidence in social work practice
- Using research and evidence in social work practice
 - BIG Data
 - > The person-in-environment perspective
 - > The program-in-environment perspective

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Required Readings

Kani , K. & Kramer, M. Collective Impact. (Winter 2011). Stanford Social Innovation Review. 36-41. Leland Stanford University Jr. University.

McAfee, A. (December 9, 2013). Big data's biggest challenge convincing people not to trust their judgment. Harvard Business Review, 1-5.

Uggerhøj, L. (2011). What is Practice Research in Social Work: Definitions, Barriers and Possibilities. *Social Work & Society*, *9*(1), 45-59

WATCH:

Big data: https://hbr.org/video/3633937151001/the-explainer-big-data-and-analytics Philip Evans: How data will transform business:

http://www.ted.com/talks/philip_evans_how_data_will_transform_business/transcript?language=en

EXPLORE:

<u>Dataversity</u> (http://www.dataversity.net/category/data-topics/big-data/) daily updates of the latest Big Data News, Articles, & Education - not too overwhelming with 1 or 2 items each day.

Planet big data (http://planetbigdata.com) is an aggregator of blogs about big data and related topics. SmartData Collective (http://smartdatacollective.com/all/8731?ref=navbar) a commercially run and moderated business community for business intelligence, predictive analytics, and data professional bloggers.

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Module 2: Evaluation Methods & Approaches for Social Workers

Unit 4: Innovation Intensive ASSSIGNMENT 1 DUE

Course materials will be available through your SOWK 648 course

Unit 5: Approaches for Evaluating Social Work Practice

Topics

- Deciding what questions to ask
- Developing Data Collection Instruments
- Formative and summative evaluation
- Efficiency Evaluation

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Required Readings

Grinnell Jr., Gabor and Unrau (2012). Chapter 1: Toward Accountability, pp. 3-27 Chapter 2: The Evaluation Process, pp. 29-45

Guthrie, K., Louie, J., David, T., & Crystal Foster, C. (2005). The challenge of assessing policy and advocacy activities: Strategies for a prospective evaluation approach. San Francisco, CA: Blueprint Research & Design.

Uggerhøj, L. (2011). What is Practice Research in Social Work-Definitions, Barriers and Possibilities. *Social Work & Society*, *9*(1), 45-59

Unit 6: Obtaining New Data: Survey Development

Topics

Surveys

- o What is a survey?
- o How are surveys delivered? (online, in-person, via phone, via mail, etc)
- How to build a survey?
- o How to analyze survey data?

Required Reading:

Grinnell Jr., Gabor and Unrau (2012). Chapter 13: Data Sources, Sampling, and Data Collection, pp. 286-295.

Neilson, K., Simonsen Abildgaard, J. & Daniels, K. (2014). Putting context into organizational intervention design: Using tailored questionnaires to measure initiatives for worker well-being. *Human Relations*, *67*(12), 1537-1560.

http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/questionnaire-design/

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MODULE 3: Using Research & Evaluation to Improve Effectiveness & Service Delivery

Unit 7: Making Decisions with Data – PART I

- Data information Systems
- Managing Data
- Writing Reports

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5

Required Readings

Grinnell Jr., Gabor and Unrau (2012). Chapter 14: Data Information Systems

Webber, Martin. (2014). Applying Research Evidence in Social Work Practice. Palgrave McMillan. Chapter 5: Using Evidence to inform decision-making.

Hillier, A. (2007). Why social work needs mapping? *Journal of Social Work Education*, 43(2): 205-221. DOI: 10.5175/JSWE.2007.200500524.

Explore databases of area resources and localized demographics (Hands-on Lab):

Healthy Cities: http://www.healthycity.org

Health Compass: http://www.healthcompass.org

MangoMap: https://mangomap.com

The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC): http://www.cebc4cw.org/

Unit 8: Making Decisions with Data –PART I ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE

Topics

- Making Case-Level Decisions
- Making Program Level Decisions
- Benchmarks and indicators

This Unit relates to course objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5

Grinnell Jr., Gabor and Unrau (2012). Chapter 15: Making Decisions

Harrison, L., & Austin, M. (2010). Transforming Data Into Action: The Sonoma County Human Services Department.

http://mackcenter.berkeley.edu/assets/files/articles/9.%20KSS%20Sonoma%20Case%20Final%20Sept%2008.pdf

Guerrero, G. E. & Kao, D. (2013). Racial/ethnic minority and low-income hotspots and their geographic proximity to integrated care providers. *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy 8* (34). doi: 10.1186/10.1186/1747-597X-8-34

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Unit 9: Process Evaluation

Topics

- Developing a Data Collection & Monitoring System
- Scoring and Analyzing Data
- Developing a Feedback System
- Disseminating and Communicating Results

This Unit relates to course objectives 1-3 and 5.

Required Readings

Grinnell Jr., Gabor and Unrau (2012). Chapters 7: Process Evaluation

Padwa, H., Guerrero, G. E., Fenwick, K. & Braslow, J. (2015). Providers' perspective on barriers to integration of mental health and substance abuse services for public mental health clients. *Psychiatric Services, online first.*

SPRING BREAK: March 14-19, 2016

Unit 10: Outcome Evaluation

Topics

- Results, Outcomes, Indicators
- Relationship between Formative and Summative Evaluation
- Client Satisfaction versus Client Outcomes

This Unit relates to course objectives 2, 4, and 5.

Required Readings:

Grinnell, Gabor and Unrau (2012) Chapter Eight: Outcome Evaluations, pp. 169-184

Guerrero, G. E., Cepeda, A., Duan, L., & Kim, T. (2013). Substance abuse treatment completion among Latino groups in L.A. County from 2006 to 2009. Addictive Behaviors. Retrieved from http://dx.doi.org.libproxy.usc.edu/10.1016/j.addbeh.2013.05.006

Kayser, K., Lobe, M., Newransky, C., Tower, G., & Raj, P. M. (2010). Microcredit self- help groups for widowed and abandoned women in south India: Do they help? Journal of Social Service Research, 36, 12–23. DOI: 10.1080/01488370903333512

Recommended Reading:

McCroskey, J. (2007). Using child and family indicators to influence communities and policy in Los Angeles County. Social indicators research, 83(1), 125-148. DOI: 10.1007/s11205-006-9065-3

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Unit 11: Using Data for Capacity-Building Needs and Services

Topics

- Identifying key findings and lessons learned
- Identifying and addressing evaluation obstacles and limitations
- · Evidence Informed Decision Making for Practice

This Unit relates to course objectives 2, 4, and 5.

Required Readings

Fortifying L.A.s nonprofit organization: capacity building needs and services in Los Angeles County. (September 2010) A study by TCC Group. Weingart Foundation.

Leake, et al. (2007). Evaluating the capacity of faith-based programs in Colorado. *Research on Social Work Practice*, *17*, 216-228 DOI: 10.1177/1049731506296408.

Guerrero, G., E., Aarons, A. G., Grella, E. C., Garner, R. B., Cook, B., & Vega, W. A. Program capacity to eliminate outcome disparities in addiction health services. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*

Unit 12: Knowledge Transfer in Social Work

Topics

- Gap between research and practice
- Current social work innovations in communities, organizations, and businesses

This Unit relates to course objectives 2, 4, and 5.

Required Readings

Rubin, A. (2014). Efforts to Bridge the Gap Between Research and Practice in Social Work Precedents and Prospects: Keynote Address at the Bridging the Gap Symposium. *Research on Social Work Practice*, doi:1049731514535852.

Rutter, D. & Fisher, M. (August 2013). Knowledge transfer in social care and social work: Where is the problem? Personal Social Services Unit.

View:

The Big Data Phenomenon: http://www.goldmansachs.com/our-thinking/trends-in-our-business/big-data.html?cid=PS_02_91_07_00_00_00_01

Explore:

http://www.societyconsulting.com/

Unit 13: Developing Recommendations & Team Consultation Sessions

Unit 14 and 15: Team Presentations ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE

Topics

Individual student presentations.

This Unit relates to course objectives 1-5.

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IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend every class and to remain in class for the duration of the unit. Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. Students are expected to notify the instructor by email at **araque@usc.edu** of any anticipated absence or reason for tardiness.

University of Southern California policy permits students to be excused from class for the observance of religious holy days. This policy also covers scheduled final examinations which conflict with students' observance of a holy day. Students must make arrangements *in advance* to complete class work which 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.

X. STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards*https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the *Department of Public Safety* http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

XI. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

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.

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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		Ac	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 initiated by the student and agreed upon by 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.

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

It may be necessary to make some adjustments in 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 wellbeing of society. Fundamental to

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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 course lead Renee Smith-Maddox, COBI vice chair, at smithmad@usc.edu. If you do not receive a satisfactory response or solution, contact your advisor or Paul Maiden, Vice Dean and Professor of Academic and Student Affairs, at mmailden@usc.edu. Or, if you are a VAC student, contact June Wiley, Director of the Virtual Academic Center, at (213) 821-0901 or june.wiley@usc.edu 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.

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