

VII. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES & PERCENT OF FINAL GRADE

Assignments

Assignments for the course consist of 3 written assignments, including (1) a Practice Knowledge Critical Reflection and Self-Assessment, (2) a Professional Resource Collection and Research Article Appraisal, and (3) an Evidence-Based Practice Brief. All assignments are designed to relate to and build on one another. As such, it is imperative that assignments be submitted by their due dates. Assignments should be submitted as described in the guidelines for the assignment.

The table below presents all course assignments, due dates, and the percent of the final grade comprised of by each assignment.

| Assignment | Week & Unit Due ¹ | % of Final Grade |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| Assignment 1 <i>Practice Knowledge Critical Reflection and Self-Assessment</i> | Unit 5/ Week 3 | 25% |
| Assignment 2 <i>Professional Resource Collection and Research Article Appraisal (Part 1)</i> | Unit 10/ Week 7 | 35% |
| Assignment 3 <i>Research Article Appraisal (Part 2)</i> | Exam Week/Week 12 | 30% |
| Active and Proactive Learning, & Meaningful Class Participation | Units 1-15 | 10% |

Assignment 1 - Practice Knowledge Critical Reflection and Self-Assessment (25% of course grade)

The overarching aim of Assignment 1 is to increase your appreciation of the science of social work by helping you to identify ways in which personal passions and professional interests and goals can be nurtured and enhanced through reflection and self-assessment. The assignment consists of three parts. The first part of the assignment addresses the connection between your cultural characteristics, life experiences and professional identity as a social worker. The second part of the assignment relates to current areas of professional interest and the professional knowledge you currently have in your specified area of interest. Finally, in the third part of the assignment, you will develop practice questions related to your specified areas of interest.

Assignment 2 - Professional Resource Collection and Research Article Appraisal (Part 1) (35% of course grade)

The overarching aim of Assignment 2 is to enhance your ability to effectively and efficiently locate information and empirical evidence relevant to specialized practice in areas that are consistent with your professional goals and interests. The assignment consists of three parts. The first part of the assignment involves locating different kinds of information relevant to one of the practice questions that your formulated in Part 3 of Assignment 1. The second part of the

¹ Please note that in some instances assignment due dates may differ among sections of this course. In those instances, due dates have been adapted to reflect the number of lesson weeks and University holidays for particular course sections.

assignment focuses on locating academic articles describing empirical research studies relevant to the practice question that you formulated. During the course, you will learn a core set of concepts and terminology related to scientific inquiry that you will be expected to understand and apply in the final part of the assignment, which consists of a critical appraisal of a research article and study.

Assignment 3 – Research Article Appraisal (Part 2) (30% of course grade)

Assignment 3 builds on Assignment 2. The assignment consists of a critical appraisal of a research article and study. Whereas the previous assignment focuses on appraisal of design and sampling methods, Assignment 3 focuses on appraisal of measurement methods and analyses. Additionally, Assignment 3 aims to prepare you for professional practice by enhancing your ability to integrate, translate, apply, and adopt the empirical evidence offered by the appraised article and study, taking into account limitations of the article and study and client characteristics and goals, your professional knowledge and expertise, and contextual factors.

**Active and Proactive Learning, & Meaningful Class Participation (10% of course grade)
Units 1 – 15**

You are expected to be active participants in your learning and proactive. This will require mental, physical and perhaps emotional effort from you, both inside and outside the formal classroom. **Active learning** involves assuming responsibility for learning; completing required readings and materials prior to class; and coming to class with thoughtful comments, reflections or questions about concepts, readings and assignments. **Proactive learning** involves anticipating workload and challenges, and taking the initiative to reach out to the instructor when concerned about possible challenges in the class.

Along with active and proactive learning, you are expected to participate meaningfully in class and to contribute to the development of a positive learning environment. **Meaningful participation** consists of thoughtful and respectful participation based on having completed required readings and assignments prior to class. For our purposes, “contributing to the development of a positive learning environment” refers to the extent to which you participate in or help create an environment that is open, professional, engaging, fun, challenging, supportive, and effective. “Environment” refers to the formal classroom, small group settings, other settings in which learning or teaching might occur, and the overall climate and culture of the class.

Please refer to the rubric below for the criteria that will be used to determine the participation grade. For each of five criteria, between 0 and 2 points can be earned, for a maximum of 10 points.

| Criteria | Never or Rarely | Regularly | Often or Always |
|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student demonstrates active and proactive learning. | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student communicates with the instructor about (a) the course, (b) her/his/their performance in the course, and (c) the instructor’s performance in the course. | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student’s communication, behavior, and participation are respectful, professional, and appropriate (this includes appropriate use of desktops/laptops and mobile devices during | 0 | 1 | 2 |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| class). | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student participates in a meaningful way and helps to maintain a positive learning environment. | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student helps <i>create</i> a positive learning environment. | 0 | 1 | 2 |

Grading

Class grades will be based on the following:

| Grade Point Average / Letter Grade | | Corresponding Numeric Grade / Letter Grade | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 3.85 – 4.00 | 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 – 2.87 | B- | 80 – 82 | B- |
| 2.25 – 2.50 | C+ | 77 – 79 | C+ |
| 1.90 – 2.24 | C | 73 – 76 | C |
| 1.89 & below | C- (Failing Grade) | 70 – 72 | C- (Failing Grade) |

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.

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

Required Textbook

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work*. NY: Springer.

Required and recommended course readings are presented in the detailed course schedule. **All required readings, including those from the required textbook, are available through ARES.**

Recommended Supplements

Kirk, S, & Reid, W. J. (2012). *Science and social work: A critical appraisal*. Columbia University Press.

Pyrzczak, F. (2012). *Evaluating research in academic journals: A practical guide to realistic evaluation*. Pyrczak Publishing.

Rubin, A., & Babbie, E. (2016). *Essential research methods for social work* (4th ed). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Rubin, A., & Bellamy, J. (2012). *Using research for evidence-based practice* (2nd ed). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Wheelan, C. (2013). *Naked statistics: Stripping the dread from the data*, New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Guides for Academic Integrity, APA Style Formatting, Writing & Research

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

APA formatting and style guide. (1995-2015). The OWL at Purdue. Retrieved from <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/08/>

USC guide to avoiding plagiarism: <http://www.usc.edu/libraries/about/reference/tutorials/avoiding-plagiarism/story.html>

USC Libguides

Sample papers using APA style: http://libguides.usc.edu/ld.php?content_id=9235241

APA citation guide: <http://libguides.usc.edu/APA-citation-style>

Evidence-Based practice resources: <http://libguides.usc.edu/socialwork/socialworkEBP>

Tests and measures: <http://libguides.usc.edu/socialwork/measurements>

Writing guide: <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide>

Recommended Social Work Organizations

National Associate of Social Workers. Available at <http://www.naswdc.org>

Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research. Available at <http://www.iaswresearch.org>

Standard Syllabus

Society for Social Work and Research. Available at <http://www.sswr.org>

American Evaluation Association. Available at <http://www.eval.org>

Course Overview

The table below presents the topics for each unit of instruction. You are expected to attend class having already completed the required reading and material.

| Unit | Topic | Due |
|---|--|--|
| PART I – THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK | | |
| 1 | Introduction to the Science of Social Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome and Introductions ▪ Overview of Course and Syllabus ▪ Introduction to the Science of Social Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Social Work Values and Empirical Evidence ▪ Exploring Your Professional Interests and Goals | |
| 2 | Engaging in Evidence-Based Social Work Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) in Social Work ▪ Assessing Clients and Identifying Professional Knowledge Needs ▪ Specifying Practice Dilemmas | |
| 3 | Formulating Practice Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using the PICO Framework to Formulate Answerable Practice Questions ▪ Using Evidence and Research Hierarchies to Determine the “Best Available Evidence” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Levels of Empirical Evidence ▪ Appraising Levels of Evidence | |
| 4 | Searching for Empirical Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-disciplinary sources of Information, Professional Knowledge, and Empirical Evidence ▪ Finding Relevant Empirical Knowledge and the Best Available Evidence ▪ Appraising Sources of Evidence | |
| PART II – APPRAISING THE QUALITY AND APPLICABILITY OF RELEVANT EMPIRICAL KNOWLEDGE | | |
| 5 | Appraising Research Articles and the Quality of Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding the Research Process ▪ <u>Research Article Appraisal:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identifying Goals of Research Studies ▪ Appraising Quality of Evidence | ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE Practice Knowledge Critical Reflection and Self-Assessment |
| 6 | Group-Based Design Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Causality and Criteria for Inferring Effectiveness ▪ Research Designs ▪ Ethical and Cultural Issues | |

| Unit | Topic | Due |
|--|--|--|
| 7 | Appraising Internal Validity and Group-Based Design Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internal Validity and Threats to Internal Validity ▪ <u>Research Article Appraisal</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identifying and Appraising Design Methods | |
| 8 | Sampling Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nonrandom and Random Sampling Methods ▪ Ethical and Cultural Issues | |
| 9 | Appraising Sampling Methods, External Validity and Applicability of Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ External Validity and Threats to External Validity ▪ <u>Research Article Appraisal</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identifying and Appraising Sampling Methods Appraising Applicability of Evidence | |
| 10 | Measurement Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement ▪ Characteristics of Variables ▪ Ethical and Cultural Issues | ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE Professional Resource Collection and Research Article Appraisal (Part 1) |
| 11 | Measurement Methods (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data Collection Techniques ▪ Locating Testing and Measurement Tools ▪ Ethical and Cultural Issues | |
| 12 | Appraising Measurement Methods and Instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Validity and Reliability ▪ Research Article Appraisal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identifying and Appraising Measurement Methods ▪ Appraising and Selecting Instruments for Professional Social Work Practice | |
| PART III – USING EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE TO INFORM PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE | | |
| 13 | Understanding and Synthesizing Findings from Research Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative Research Methods ▪ Interpreting Results from Qualitative Studies ▪ Adapting and Translating Qualitative Evidence into Interculturally-Responsive and Competent Practice | |
| 14 | Understanding and Synthesizing Findings from Research Articles (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpreting Results from Quantitative Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statistical Tests ▪ Results from Meta-Analyses | |

Standard Syllabus

| Unit | Topic | Due |
|------|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Findings from Systematic Reviews▪ Adapting and Translating Quantitative Evidence into Interculturally-Responsive and Competent Practice | |
| 15 | Using the Science of Social Work to Improve Practice, Policy, Services, and Organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Preparing for Implementation and Evaluation of Evidence-Based Practice Decision-Making<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Engaging Clients in Decision-Making▪ Course Review and Wrap-Up<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Next Steps for the Science of Social Work | |
| | EXAMS WEEK | ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE Research Article Appraisal (Part 2) |

Detailed Course Readings and Topics

PART I – THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Introduction to the Science of Social Work

UNIT 1

Objectives

- 1) To provide an overview of the course.
- 2) To deepen your understanding of the mission of the social work profession and to enhance your identification with the profession, including the profession's emphasis on social work knowledge and science.
- 3) To introduce the Science of Social Work and establish its value and role in professional social work practice.

Topics

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Course and Syllabus
- Introduction to the Science of Social Work
 - Social Work Values and Empirical Evidence
- Exploring Your Professional Interests and Goals

Required Readings

Please carefully review the Course Syllabus.

Brekke, J. S. (2012). Shaping a science of social work. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 22(5), 455-464.

Gehlert, S. (2015). Social work and science. *Research on Social Work Practice*, February 2015, 1-6.

Longhofer, J., & Floersch, J. (2014). Values in a science of social work: values-informed research and research-informed values. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 24(5), 527-534.

Recommended Readings

Council on Social Work Education (2015). *Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards, Competencies 4 and 9*. Washington, DC.

National Association of Social Work (2017). *Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers*. Washington, DC.

Sherraden, M., Stuart, P., Barth, R. P., Kemp, S., Lubben, J., Hawkins, J.D., Coulton, C., McRoy, R., Walters, K., Healy, L., Angell, B., Mahoney, K., Brekke, J., Padilla, Y., DiNitto, D., Padgett, D., Schroepfer, T., & Catalano, R., (2014). *Grand Accomplishments in Social Work*. (Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative, Working Paper No. 2). Baltimore, MD: American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. <http://aaswsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/FINAL-Grand-Accomplishments-4-2-2015-formatted-final.pdf>

Engaging in Evidence-Based Social Work Practice

UNIT 2

Objectives

- 1) To introduce Evidence-Based Practice and its relationship to the Science of Social Work.
- 2) To illustrate the diverse ways in which EBP are integral to professional social work practice.

Topics

- Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) in Social Work
- Assessing Clients and Identifying Professional Knowledge Needs
- Specifying Practice Dilemmas

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work*:
Chapter 1 – Introduction and overview (pp. 3–18).

Rubin, A., & Bellamy, J. (2012). *Practitioner's Guide to Using Research for Evidence-Based Practice*:
Chapter 2 – Steps in the EBP process (pp. 28-49).

Recommended Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work*:
Chapter 3 – The steps of Evidence-Based Practice in clinical practice: An overview (pp. 31–53).

Rubin, A., & Bellamy, J. (2012). *Practitioner's Guide to Using Research for Evidence-Based Practice*:
Chapter 2 – Steps in the EBP process (pp. 28-49).

Soydan, H., & Palinkas, L. A. (2014). *Evidence-Based Practice in Social Work: Development of a New Professional Culture*:
Chapter 2 – Evidence-Based practice (pp. 11-35).

Formulating Practice Questions

UNIT 3

Objectives

- 1) To strength your ability to accurately assess clients, identify professional knowledge needs, and formulate practice questions.
- 2) To enhance your capacity to use evidence and research hierarchies to determine what type of evidence is considered the most appropriate for enhancing professional knowledge.

Topics

- Using the PICO Framework to Formulate Answerable Practice Questions
- Using Evidence and Research Hierarchies to Determine the “Best Available Evidence”
 - Levels of Empirical Evidence
- Appraising Levels of Evidence

Required Reading

Rubin, A., & Bellamy, J. (2012). *Practitioner’s Guide to Using Research for Evidence-Based Practice*:

Chapter 3 – Research hierarchies: Which types of research are best for which questions? (pp. 50-67).

Recommended Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work*:

Chapter 4 – Assessment in clinical social work and identifying practice information needs (pp. 55–77).

Searching for Empirical Evidence

UNIT 4

Objectives

- 1) To expand your ability to use different resources to locate information, knowledge and evidence efficiently and effectively.

Topics

- Multi-disciplinary sources of Information, Professional Knowledge, and Empirical Evidence
- Finding Relevant Empirical Knowledge and the Best Available Evidence
- Appraising Sources of Evidence

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work*:

Chapter 5 – Locating practice research (79-89).

Erren, T. C., Cullen, P., & Erren, M. (2009). How to surf today’s information tsunami: On the craft of effective reading. *Medical Hypotheses*, 73(3), 278-279.

Rubin, A., & Babbie, R. (2016). *Essential Research Methods for Social Work*:

Appendix A – Using the Library (pp. 373-380).

SOWK 546 Course Guide and Social Work Research Guide:

<http://libguides.usc.edu/socialwork/sowk546>

Recommended Reading

USC Social Work Research Guide:

<http://libguides.usc.edu/socialwork>

PART II – APPRAISING THE QUALITY AND APPLICABILITY OF RELEVANT EMPIRICAL KNOWLEDGE

Appraising Research Articles and the Quality of Evidence

UNIT 5

Objectives

- 1) To provide you with a foundational understanding of the logic and process of scientific inquiry.
- 2) To strengthen your ability to identify research goals and questions and to determine the methods appropriate for addressing different types of goals and questions.

Topics

- Understanding the Research Process
- Research Article Appraisal:
 - Identifying Goals of Research Studies
- Appraising Quality of Evidence

Required Reading

Nadeau, J., & Camp, S. (2006). Interpreting research studies. *In Brief*, 2, 1-4
(https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/ib_interpreting.pdf).

Soydan, H., & Palinkas, L. A. (2014). *Evidence-Based Practice in Social Work: Development of a New Professional Culture:*

Chapter 3 - Evidence and its sources (pp. 35-65).

DUE: ASSIGNMENT 1 – PRACTICE KNOWLEDGE CRITICAL REFLECTION AND SELF-ASSESSMENT

Group-Based Design Methods

UNIT 6

Objectives

- 1) To enhance your understanding of different kinds of group-based design methods, including their strengths and weaknesses in terms of addressing different kinds of research aims and questions.

Topics

- Causality and Criteria for Inferring Effectiveness
- Research Designs
- Ethical and Cultural Issues

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work:*

Chapter 6 – Evaluating research: Research designs in Evidence-Based medicine/Evidence-Based practice (91-104).

Appraising Internal Validity and Group-Based Design Methods

UNIT 7

Objectives

- 1) In terms of its relevance to specific practice and policy questions, to strengthen your ability to critically appraised group-based design methods as presented in published research articles.

Topics

- Internal Validity and Threats to Internal Validity
- Research Article Appraisal:
 - Identifying and Appraising Design Methods

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work:*

Review Chapter 6 – Evaluating research: Research designs in Evidence-Based medicine/Evidence-Based practice (91-104).

Cohen, J. A., Mannarino, A., Perel, J. M., & Staron, V. (2007). A pilot randomized controlled trial of combined trauma-focused CBT and Sertraline for childhood PTSD symptoms. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 46*(7), 811-819.

Recommended Reading

Rubin, A., & Bellamy, J. (2012). *Practitioner’s Guide to Using Research for Evidence-Based Practice:*

Chapter 4 – Criteria for inferring effectiveness: How do we know what works? (pp. 71-98).

Sampling Methods

UNIT 8

Objectives

- 1) To enhance your understanding of different kinds of strategies for obtaining research participants, including their strengths and weaknesses.

Topics

- Nonrandom and Random Sampling Methods
- Ethical and Cultural Issues

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work:*

Chapter 7 – Evaluating research: Other issues of research methodology in Evidence-Based medicine/Evidence-Based practice (pp. 107-113).

Appraising Sampling Methods, External Validity and Applicability of Evidence

UNIT 9

Objectives

- 1) To deepen your understanding of external validity and how it impacts the use of science in social work practice and policy.
- 2) To clarify how the selection of research participants impacts interpretation of results and applicability of results to practice questions.

Topics

- External Validity and Threats to External Validity
- Research Article Appraisal
 - Identifying and Appraising Sampling Methods
- Appraising Applicability of Evidence

Required Reading

Murray, L. K, Skavonski, S., Michalopoulos, L. M., Bolton, P. A., Bass, J. K., Familiar, I., Imasiku, M., & Cohen, J. (2014). Counselor and client perspectives of trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy for children in Zambia: A qualitative study. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 43(6), 902-914.

Measurement Methods

UNIT 10

Objectives

- 1) To strengthen your ability to understand conceptualization and measurement in research as presented in published research articles.

Topics

- Qualitative and Quantitative Measurement
- Characteristics of Variables
- Ethical and Cultural Issues

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work: Chapter 7 – Evaluating research: Other issues of research methodology in Evidence-Based medicine/Evidence-Based practice (pp. 113-125).

DUE: ASSIGNMENT 2 – PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE COLLECTION AND RESEARCH ARTICLE APPRAISAL (PART 1)

Measurement Methods - Continued

UNIT 11

Objectives

- 1) To strengthen your ability to understand conceptualization and measurement in research as presented in published research articles.

Topics

- Data Collection Techniques
- Locating Testing and Measurement Tools
- Ethical and Cultural Issues

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work: Chapter 7 – Evaluating research: Other issues of research methodology in Evidence-Based medicine/Evidence-Based practice (pp. 113-125).

Appraising Measurement Methods and Instruments

UNIT 12

Objectives

- 1) To enhance your ability to appraise the strengths and limitations of measurement methods as presented in published research articles.
- 2) To enhance your ability to appraise the strengths and limitations of instruments in terms of professional social work practice.

Topics

- Validity and Reliability
- Research Article Appraisal
 - Identifying and Appraising Measurement Methods
- Appraising and Selecting Instruments for Professional Social Work Practice

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work:*

Review Chapter 7 – Evaluating research: Other issues of research methodology in Evidence-Based medicine/Evidence-Based practice (pp. 113-125).

Mourão, L., & Ferreira, M. C. (2012). Evaluation of the Brazilian family grant program: A quasi-experimental study in the state of Rio de Janeiro. *Psicologia, Reflexão e Crítica*, 25(4), 719-729.

Recommended Reading

Rubin, A., & Bellamy, J. (2012). *Practitioner's Guide to Using Research for Evidence-Based Practice.*

Chapter 11 - Critically appraising and selecting assessment instruments (pp. 275-298).

PART III – USING EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE TO INFORM PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Understanding and Synthesizing Findings from Research Articles

UNIT 13

Objectives

- 1) To increase your understanding of different approaches to analyzing qualitative and quantitative data and your ability to interpret results from analyses of data with respect to specified research aims and questions.
- 2) To enhance your ability to synthesize results of qualitative and quantitative data analysis to address professional questions and to inform professional practice.
- 3) To strengthen your capacity to summarize qualitative and quantitative data and results in ways accessible to appropriate clients and constituencies.

Topics

- Qualitative Research Methods
- Interpreting Results from Qualitative Studies
- Adapting and Translating Qualitative Evidence into Interculturally-Responsive and Competent Practice
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Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work*: Chapter 7 – Evaluating research: Other issues of research methodology in Evidence-Based medicine/Evidence-Based practice (pp. 125-135).

NOTE: Examples of qualitative analysis and results will be provided by your instructor.

Understanding and Synthesizing Findings from Research Articles (Continued)

UNIT 14

Objectives

- 1) To increase your understanding of different approaches to analyzing quantitative data and your ability to interpret results from analyses of data with respect to specified research aims and questions.
- 2) To enhance your ability to synthesize results of quantitative data analysis to address professional questions and to inform professional practice.
- 3) To strengthen your capacity to summarize quantitative data and results in ways accessible to appropriate clients and constituencies.
- 4) To strengthen your capacity to summarize findings from meta-analyses and systematic reviews in ways accessible to appropriate clients and constituencies.

Topics

- Results from Quantitative Studies
 - Statistical Tests
- Results from Meta-Analyses
- Findings from Systematic Reviews
- Adapting and Translating Quantitative Evidence into Interculturally-Responsive and Competent Practice

Required Reading

Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work*: Chapter 8 – Meta-analysis and systematic reviews: Aggregating research results (pp. 137-153).

Rubin, A., & Bellamy, J. (2012). *Practitioner's Guide to Using Research for Evidence-Based Practice*:

Appendix B – What you do and don't need to know about statistics when critically appraising studies (pp. 327-333).

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UNIT 15

Objectives

- 1) To improve your ability to synthesizing evidence from multiple studies and to use the best available evidence to inform professional social work practice, including engagement of

clients in the decision-making process.

- 2) To critically reflect on the science of social work and the EBP process, including strengths and limitations, with an emphasis on understanding how to use research evidence in complex, real-world contexts.
- 3) From the perspective of life-long learning, to prepare you to evaluate implementation and impact of evidence-based practice decisions in the context of professional social work practice.

Topics

- Preparing for Implementation and Evaluation of Evidence-Based Practice Decisions
 - Engaging Clients in Decision-Making
- Course Review and Wrap-Up
 - Next Steps for the Science of Social Work

Required Reading

- Brekke, J. S. (2014). A science of social work, and social work as an integrative discipline: have we gone too far, or not far enough? *Research on Social Work Practice, 24*(5), 517-523.
- Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work: Chapter 9 – Shared decision-making with the client* (pp. 155–164).
- Drisko, J. W., & Grady, M. D. (2012). *Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Social Work: Chapter 10 – Finalizing the treatment plan and practice evaluation* (pp. 165–175).

Recommended Reading

- Rubin, A., & Bellamy, J. (2012). *Practitioner's Guide to Using Research for Evidence-Based Practice: Chapter 12 – Monitoring client progress* (pp. 299-319).

EXAMS
WEEK

DUE: ASSIGNMENT 3 – RESEARCH ARTICLE APPRAISAL (PART 2)

University & School Policies and Guidelines

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY

As a professional school, class attendance is an essential part of your professional training and development at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. You are expected to attend all class sessions for the full duration of class. Having three unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final course grade by one grade segment. Additional absences can result in further grade deductions. For VAC students, attendance requires maintaining an active presence during live sessions with clear and reliable video and audio. Unless otherwise directed by your instructor, VAC students are expected to complete all asynchronous content and activities prior to the scheduled live session. Failure to complete three asynchronous units prior to the scheduled live session will result in the lowering of your final course grade by one grade segment. Not completing additional asynchronous units can result in further grade deductions.

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. 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 Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. 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>.

XI. SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and micro aggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

USC Support and Advocacy (USCSA) – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu

XII. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR VAC STUDENTS

Students enrolled in the Virtual Academic Center can access support services for themselves and their families by contacting Perspectives, Ltd., an independent student assistance program offering crisis services, short-term counseling, and referral 24/7. To access Perspectives, Ltd., call 800-456-6327.

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, EXTRA CREDIT, AND RE-GRADING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due on the day specified by midnight PST. Extensions will be granted only for extenuating circumstances. Late submissions may be accepted by the instructor for review and feedback at the instructor’s discretion, but they will not be graded. Also note that extra credit is not permitted, nor is re-doing an assignment with the expectation that it will be re-graded. Grades may not be changed once they have been assigned unless there was an error in determining the grade.

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

It may be necessary to make some adjustments in the syllabus and/or course during the semester in order to respond to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances. Any such adjustments would be made for the express purpose of accommodating students and with input from students. 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 2017 NASW Delegate Assembly [<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics>]

Preamble

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being 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 well-being 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. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY SANCTION GUIDELINES

Some lecture slides, notes, or exercises used in this course may be the property of the textbook publisher or other third parties. All other course material, including but not limited to slides developed by the instructor(s), the syllabus, assignments, course notes, course recordings (whether audio or video) and examinations or quizzes are the property of the University or of the

individual instructor who developed them. Students are free to use this material for study and learning, and for discussion with others, including those who may not be in this class, unless the instructor imposes more stringent requirements. Republishing or redistributing this material, including uploading it to web sites or linking to it through services like iTunes, violates the rights of the copyright holder and is prohibited. There are civil and criminal penalties for copyright violation. Publishing or redistributing this material in a way that might give others an unfair advantage in this or future courses may subject you to penalties for academic misconduct.

XVIII. 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 appropriate Lead Instructor for SOWK 546—either Dr. Jan Nissly at nissly@usc.edu (VAC) or Dr. Devon Brooks at devon.brooks@usc.edu (Ground). If you do not receive a satisfactory response or solution, contact your academic advisor and/or Associate Dean and MSW Chair Dr. Leslie Wind for further guidance.

XIX. TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN THIS COURSE

- ✓ Be proactive! TOGETHER, let's do everything we can to make this an educational and enjoyable experience for you. Try to anticipate issues that could present challenges and PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME so that we can problem-solve before rather than after the fact.
- ✓ Be mindful of getting proper nutrition, exercise, rest and sleep!
- ✓ Complete required readings, assignments and activities before coming to class.
- ✓ Keep up with the assigned readings and assignments. Don't procrastinate!!
- ✓ Come to class and participate in an active, respectful and meaningful way.
- ✓ Come to class prepared to ask any questions you might have. If you don't understand something, ask questions! Ask questions in class, during office hours, and/or through email!
- ✓ Stay offline while in class.
- ✓ Form study groups with other students in the class or in another section of the class.
- ✓ Take advantage of office hours and extra review/discussion sessions offered by your instructor. Contact me if you are concerned about or are struggling in class.
- ✓ If you believe it is necessary to receive support from a content tutor or Writing Support, please inform or involve me. I want to be able to help and support you in any way possible, but I need to know that you want/need support!! I am also happy to meet with you and your tutor.
- ✓ Keep an open mind and positive attitude!