

**SOCIAL WORK 8960
Research Other Than Thesis
(3 Credit Hours)**

1.0 Course Description Information

1.1 Catalog Description

This course enables students, under faculty supervision, to prepare a research proposal, carry out the study, and prepare a detailed report of the purpose, design, outcome and meaning of the study.

1.2 Prerequisites of the course: SOWK 8190 and permission of the School.

1.3 Overview of content and purpose of the course: This course enables students, under faculty supervision, to prepare a research proposal, carry out the study, and prepare a detailed report of the purpose, design, outcome and meaning of the study.

1.4 For whom the course is intended: This course is open to graduate students in the Master of Social Work program. It meets the requirement for the advanced research course. **Students in the dual degree MPA/MSW program may take this course; however, it will be an extra course, in addition to the required advanced research course in Program Evaluation.**

1.5 Unusual circumstances of the course: Students will receive permission to register only after meeting with the Social Work Coordinator of Research Other Than Thesis, reviewing the course syllabus, and completing the required application for this course, including signature of the faculty person who agrees to supervise the project (application attached). The project may be conducted by one student or a small group of students. The research may involve either a quantitative or qualitative study, the use of secondary data, and may center of various research categories, e.g. program evaluation, needs assessment, policy analysis, survey, etc.

Until the project is fully completed, the grade of IP, in progress, will be given. Students must complete the project within the School's time limit for completing the degree and by the semester of graduation.

2.0 Course Justification Information

2.1 Anticipated audience/demand: This course is an elective for graduate social work students.

2.2 Indicate how often this course will be offered and the anticipated enrollment: The course is offered every semester. Enrollment varies.

2.3 If it is a significant change to an existing course, please explain why it is needed: This course syllabus links MSW program objectives to course objectives and assignments.

3.0 Objective Information

3.1 List of performance objectives stated in learning outcomes

The MSW Program Objectives are:

MSW Program Objective #1: To apply critical thinking skills within the historical and contemporary contexts of professional social work practice.

MSW Program Objective #2: Apply and analyze social work values, ethical principles and legal mandates in professional social work practice.

MSW Program Objective #3: Demonstrate cultural competency in professional social work practice.

MSW Program Objective #4: Identify, serve, and advocate for vulnerable client systems and populations at risk.

MSW Program Objective #5: Work effectively in multidisciplinary teams and settings.

MSW Program Objective #6: Apply bio-psycho-social-spiritual-cultural factors to assess human behavior in the social and environmental context.

MSW Program Objective #7: Identify and use formal diagnostic classification systems.

MSW Program Objective #8: Identify, select and apply empirically supported methods for clinical and integrated social work practice.

MSW Program Objective #9: Identify and conduct multidimensional assessments with client systems.

MSW Program Objective #10: Communicate effectively in oral and written forms in professional social work practice.

MSW Program Objective #11: Use effective supervisory, consultative and administrative skills in professional social work practice.

MSW Program Objective #12: Function effectively within agency and community structures to deliver professional social work services.

MSW Program Objective #13: Apply research methods to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, services, policies and programs.

MSW Program Objective #14: Develop, implement, and analyze policies, practices, and administrative structures that promote socially just institutions and communities.

The MSW Program Objectives that are most relevant to the objectives of this course are:

1. To apply critical thinking skills within the historical and contemporary contexts of professional social work practice.
2. Apply and analyze social work values, ethical principles and legal mandates in professional social work practice.
8. Identify, select and apply empirically supported methods for clinical and integrated social work practice.
13. Apply research methods to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions, services, policies and programs. Depending on the research topic, other MSW Program Objectives may also be relevant.

Research Other Than Thesis Course Objectives	MSW Program Objective	Assignments
Formulate research questions	# 1, 2, 8, 13	Submit application form and initial proposal ideas
Write a formal proposal that meets standards for advanced level research,	# 1, 2, 8, 13	Write, refine proposal with literature review
Describe the context of the research project, i.e., statement of the problem/issue from an ecological (systems)perspective, stakeholder perspectives, etc.	# 1, 2, 8, 13	Written proposal
Conduct a literature review	# 1, 2, 8, 13	Revise, refine written literature review
Select research methodology that relates to the research project, including design, sampling, measurement, and ethics	# 1, 2, 8, 13	Meet with faculty supervisor/others Revise proposal per guidance
Carry out a research study: gain IRB approval, collect and/or manage data, and process and analyze data.	# 1, 2, 8, 13	Meet with faculty supervisor/others. Proceed with research tasks per guidance
Write a formal research report in the format required and approved by the proposal and Coordinator.	# 1, 2, 8, 13	Meet with faculty supervisor and submit drafts as recommended
Submit the research report to the faculty supervisor and other parties, as outlined in the proposal. An oral presentation of results and/or a submission to a	# 1, 2, 8, 13	Meet with faculty supervisor; submit final report; participate in evaluation.

journal for publication is suggested, but not required.		
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4.0 Content and Organization Information

4.1 List of topics to be covered in chronological sequence:

- 4.1.1 Review of research process
- 4.1.2 Formulating the research question
- 4.1.3 Literature review
- 4.1.4 Research methodology including instrumentation
- 4.1.5 Data management and analysis
- 4.1.6 Review of research writing and required style
- 4.1.7 Issues in adapting research reports for publication

5.0 Teaching Methodology

5.1 Methods to be used: The designated faculty supervisor will provide individualized supervision to the student in the form of written and oral feedback throughout this course. The faculty supervisor will keep the Coordinator of Research Other Than Thesis informed of progress.

5.2 Student role in the course: Students must assume a primary role in carrying out all the steps in the project, including remaining in close communication with the faculty supervisor, seeking needed resources (paying for needed resources), attending required meetings, and meeting deadlines.

5.3 Contact hours: The minimum number of required clock hours of student work on this 3-credit course is 135. The completed 8960 application form will indicate the approximate number of hours for each aspect of the project. Minimal required contact includes: initial meeting with Social Work Coordinator of Research Other Than Thesis to start the student on the process and meetings with the faculty supervisor of the project and/or others for instruction and monitoring progress, data collection and analysis, and for submission and evaluation of the final report.

6.0 Evaluation Information

6.1 Types of student projects that will be the basis for evaluating student performance

6.1.1 Projects and assignments
 Students will develop a proposal and carry it out. The proposal will include the goals and faculty supervisor; it must include the following: introduction (statement of problem and literature review), method, results, discussion, and references.

6.2 Basis for determining the final grade

Students will be evaluated by the faculty supervisor on the quality of their research, their ability to manage the research project, the quality of their final research report.

The faculty supervisor will judge the research effort based on the:

- Adequacy and quality of statement of the problem/issue
- Adequacy and quality of review of the literature
- Adequacy of research methodology\
- Adequacy of carrying out the research including the manner in which unanticipated factors were dealt with
- Adequacy of interpretation of the findings
- Adequacy of the written report for the purpose and in the style specified

Planning and carrying out all research stages	50 points
Final formal written report	50 points
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Total	100 points

6.3 Grading Type:

A+ = 98% and above	B+ = 88-90.9	C+ = 78-80.9	D+ = 68-70.9
A = 94-97.9	B = 84-87.9	C = 74-77.9	D = 64-67.9
A- = 91-93.9	B- = 81-83.9	C- = 71-73.9	D- = 61-63.9
			F = 60.9 and below

7.0 Resource Material**7.1 Textbooks or other required readings used in course**

No specific textbook is prescribed. The student must follow the style of the most recent edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. The supervisory committee may suggest books, research reports, etc.; and the student will review the literature relevant to the research topic, data analysis, and implications.

7.2 Other suggested reading material

Babbie, E., Halley, F., & Zaino, J. (2003). *Adventures in social research: Data analysis using SPSS 11.0/11.5 for Windows*, 5th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press/Sage.

Creswell, J. W. (1998). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five traditions*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

DiLeonardi, J. W., & Curtis, P. A. (1992). *What to do when the numbers are in: A user's guide to statistical data analysis in the human services*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.

Field, A. (2000). *Discovering statistics using SPSS for Windows*. London: Sage Publications.

Galvan, J. L. (1999). *Writing literature reviews*. Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

Green, S. B., Salkind, N. J., & Akey, T. M. (2000). *Using SPSS for Windows: Analyzing and understanding data*, 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Maxwell, J. A. (1996). *Qualitative research design: An interactive approach*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Monette, D. R., Sullivan, T. J., & DeJong, C. R. (2005). *Applied social research: Tool for the human services*, 6th ed. Fort Worth, TX: Harcourt College Publishers.

Patterson, D. A., & Basham, R. E. (2006). *Data analysis with spreadsheets*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Pyrczak, F., & Bruce, R. R. (2000). *Writing empirical research reports*. Los Angeles: Pyrczak Publishing.

Rubin, A. & Babbie, E. (2005). *Research methods for social work*, 5th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Brooks/Cole.

Szuchman, L. T., & Thomlison, B. (2004). *Writing with style: APA style for social work*, 2nd ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

Tabachnick, B. G., & Fidell, L. S. (2000). *Using multivariate statistics*, 4th ed. Boston, MA Allyn & Bacon.

Royse, D., Thyer, B. A., Padgett, D. K., & Logan, T. K. (2006). *Program evaluation: An introduction*, 4th ed. Thomson Brooks/Cole. ISBN 0-534-50827-8.

8.0 Other Information

8.1 Plagiarism

The Executive Body of the School of Social Work has passed a policy alerting students to, and emphasizing the importance of, the issue of plagiarism. The UNO policy on plagiarism is as follows:

"The prevention of plagiarism and the imposition of sanctions upon those who resort to plagiarism is necessary in any university that espouses the ideals embodied in the concept of academic freedom. Plagiarism is the appropriation of the work (be it ideas or words) of another without crediting the source. Such a practice is particularly reprehensible in a community dedicated to the pursuit and advancement of knowledge."

The UNO policy on Academic Integrity reads as follows:

"The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions."

Academic dishonesty definitions, procedures and sanctions are available on the current University of Nebraska at Omaha web-site

8.2 Procedure Regarding Student Grades/Papers

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 requires that student grades not be published in a personally identifiable fashion. Therefore, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor, students must provide a self-addressed adequately stamped envelope for papers, projects, or exams that were not returned to them in class. Any remaining papers, projects or exams will be kept by the instructor for 3 months after the semester ends, at which time they will be shredded.

8.3 Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

Accommodations are provided for students with certified disabilities. For more information contact Services for Students with Disabilities, EAB 117 or 554.2872, TTY 554.3799.

8.4 Additional Assistance

Students who have concerns about their competence in writing papers or who have extreme anxiety in taking tests or giving class presentations should address these concerns by seeking professional counseling through the University Division Counseling Services.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Approximate number of hours: _____

Description: _____

WRITING REPORT OR ARTICLE

Approximate number of hours: _____

Description:

MONITORING PLANS

METHOD OF EVALUATION

SIGNATURES

I AGREE TO BEGIN THIS PROJECT ON _____

Date

AND TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT BY _____

Date

Student Signature

Date

Faculty Research Project Supervisor's Signature

Date

Research Coordinator's Signature

Date

***** RETURN FORM TO MARY LEE TISDALE, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SECRETARY *****

cc: Student File, Faculty Supervisor, Coordinator of 8960
Rev. 10-06 da

