| GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MASTER'S THESIS

SOWK 8990 | 6 credit hours
Class Meetings: TBD

Instructor: TBD

Office: TBD

Office Phone: TBD

Email: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

Department: Grace Abbott School of Social Work
Main Office: 206 CPACS
Dept. Phone: 402.554.2793
Dept. Email: graceabbott@unomaha.edu

COURSE INFORMATION
Description

     The Master's thesis provides students the opportunity to acquire first-hand experience in research methods under faculty direction. With the guidance of the thesis coordinator and a supervisory committee, the student prepares a formal research proposal, gains IRB approval, conducts the proposed study, and prepares a detailed report of the purpose, design, results, and implications of the findings. The student will present the thesis in an oral defense to the thesis coordinator and supervisory committee.

Prerequisites of the course:

     SOWK 8190 and permission of the School.

Rationale/Overview

     This course is intended for students who want to experience the thesis process. Students will develop and write a thesis statement on a topic related to social welfare. The thesis will include a conceptualization of the problem, a comprehensive literature review, and research methodology. The student will develop or obtain measures, and collect and analyze data.

Unusual circumstances of the course:

     Students will receive permission to register only after meeting with the Social Work Coordinator of Thesis and after formally setting up the thesis supervisory committee of

University of Nebraska Graduate Faculty members who agree to serve. One faculty person must be from outside the School of Social Work. The student must register for 6 credits of Thesis, but these need not be taken in one semester. Until the thesis is fully completed, the grade of IP, in progress, will be assigned. A detailed guide for thesis requirements is available from the Office of Graduate Studies or at
http://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/current-students/thesis-masters.php

Minimal required contact includes: initial meeting with Social Work Coordinator of Thesis to start the student on the process; meetings as needed to finalize the proposal; meeting with the supervisory committee for proposal approval; meeting as needed with committee members for specific guidance; and meeting with the committee for the oral defense. For 6 credit hours, the minimal expected clock hours of student work are 270.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

1. Develop a research proposal, including identifying and refining an issue that merits research, conceptualizing a problem, and operationalizing variables.
2. Compose a formal proposal that meets standards for advanced level research, with a special focus on anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI).
3. Compile a comprehensive literature review.
4. Design research methodology as it relates to the research project, including design, sampling, measurement, and ethics.
5. Conduct a research study, including gaining IRB approval, developing or obtaining measures, collecting data, managing data, and processing and analyzing data.
6. Create a complete formal research report that includes introduction and literature review, method, results, and discussion of their meaning and implications.
7. Present thesis in an oral defense.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS
Required text(s)

TBD

COURSE STRUCTURE/FORMAT
Lecture, discussion, experiential learning experiences, video and Internet resources, and guest presentations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Session/Date	Topic	Assignment
Session 1 [date]		
Session 2 [date]		
Session 3 [date]		
Session 4 [date]		
Session 5		

Session/Date	Topic	Assignment
[date]		
Session 6 [date]		
Session 7 [date]		
Session 8 [date]		
Session 9 [date]		
Session 10 [date]		
Session 11 [date]		
Session 12 [date]		
Session 13 [date]		

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to drop a course (via MavLink) and receive a 100% refund TBD
Last day to withdraw from a course (via MavLink) with a grade of "W" TBD

NOTE: This syllabus is written as an expectation of class topics, learning activities, and expected learning outcomes. However, the instructor reserves the right to make changes in this schedule that may result in enhanced or more effective learning for students. These modifications will not substantially change the intent or objectives of this course.

ASSESSMENTS (ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS)

Planning and carrying out all research stages	30 points
Final formal written report	50 points
Oral Defense	20 points
Total	100 points

GRADING SCALE

Percent	Final Grade	Quality Points
98–100%	A+	4.00
94–97.9%	A	4.00
91–93.9%	A-	3.67
88–90.9%	B+	3.33
84–87.9%	B	3.00
81–83.9%	B-	2.67
78–80.9%	C+	2.33
77–77.9%	C	2.00
71–73.9%	C-	1.67

68–70.9%	D+	1.33
64–67.9%	D	1.00
61–63.9%	D-	0.67
Below 60.9%	F	0.00

WRITING GUIDELINES
Students should make sure that writing assignments are free of grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Papers should adhere to the most recent citation style outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA).

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT
In this course, students will submit written work by making use of information and ideas found in print or online sources. Whenever material from another writer is used, it is important that students quote or paraphrase appropriately and cite the source.

The UNO Academic Integrity policy defines plagiarism as "presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting academic work in whole or in part as one's own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person."

Failure to cite sources appropriately is plagiarism, a serious academic offense. Plagiarized work will not be accepted. Consequences for plagiarism are up to the discretion of the instructor; they may range, for example, from rewriting all or part of a paper to a grade of F for the course. Students who plagiarize more than once are subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion from the university.

Students SHOULD NOT GUESS when it comes to using or citing another writer's work. Students should contact the instructor or a consultant at the UNO Writing Center with questions. Students should take a printout of the original source as well as the paper that is being written to the consultation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY
The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found responsible for violating the policy on Academic Integrity shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. Violations of the policy on Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following: cheating, fabrication and falsification, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials and/or equipment, complicity in academic dishonesty, falsifying grade reports, and/or misrepresentation to avoid academic work. More information about these areas and the procedures addressing academic integrity is available from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs (EAB 202 | 402.554.2262).

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS
Students are expected to arrive on time to class meetings. Students should come to class well prepared, meaning readings and other assignments have been completed. Students are expected to be respectful of their classmates and the instructor. Distracting and/or disrespectful behaviors will not be tolerated.

CELL PHONES, MOBILE DEVICES, AND LAPTOPS

Students are welcome to use cell phones, mobile devices, and/or laptops in class provided they are used for academic purposes such as note taking, accessing course materials, or researching course concepts and their use does not disrupt fellow classmates. Please silence devices if at all possible. A student who receives a phone call or text, should step outside the classroom to respond. DO NOT take pictures or video during class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will be expected to have access to a computer frequently, as all writing assignments used will be typed out and not handwritten. The software students use to write assignments is irrelevant, as long as the writing guidelines outlined in this syllabus are followed. It is recommended that students have access to a computer weekly. Public computers are available on the UNO campus. Consult Information Technology Services and the Criss Library, for more information on equipment locations and availability.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support for common university systems, including Canvas and email, is available from Information Technology Services technical support located in Eppley Administration Building (EAB) 104.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Accessibility Services Center (ASC) and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact ASC (Location: H&K 104, Phone: 402.554.2872, Email: unoaccessibility@unomaha.edu)

CRISS LIBRARY

UNO's Criss Library offers a wide variety of resources that support student learning. Subject specialist librarians have in-depth knowledge of researching within specific disciplines and can provide guidance for a specific area of study. Students are encouraged to explore customized resources featured on the Criss Library website.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is prepared for a wide range of emergencies. Students should familiarize themselves with procedures and assistance available on UNO's emergency information page. If travel to campus is not feasible due to a declared emergency, a combination of Canvas, teleconferencing, and other technologies will be used to facilitate academic continuity. Students will be notified of procedures through Canvas course site announcements and email as appropriate.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement or threatening weather, students should use his/her best judgment regarding travel to and from campus. Students who are not able to attend class due to adverse weather conditions, should contact the instructor as soon as possible. Similarly, if the instructor is unable to reach the class location, students will be notified of any cancellation or change as soon as possible (by approximately 1 hour before class starts and by posting an announcement in Canvas). Students who cannot get to class because of weather conditions, will be provided allowances relative to attendance policies as well as any scheduled tests, quizzes, or other assessments.

PREFERRED NAME AND PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUNS

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. The instructor will gladly honor a student's request to be addressed by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise the instructor of this preference early in the semester so that instructor records may be changed appropriately.

WRITING CENTER

The UNO Writing Center offers free one-on-one consultations with trained consultants to all students, faculty, and staff. Their goal is to help writers improve their writing skills and confidence in all types of writing, in all subject areas, and at all stages of the writing process. For more information about their hours and locations or to schedule an appointment, go to unomaha.edu/writingcenter or visit their main location in Arts and Sciences Hall (ASH) 150.

SPEECH CENTER

The UNO Speech Center provides free consulting and coaching services to all UNO students, faculty, and staff in preparing oral presentations. The Speech Center Consulting Room can help students with presentation preparation, outlining, effective delivery techniques, along with any other presentational needs. Speech consulting will help at any stage in the speech-making process. For more information, visit the UNO Speech Center in Arts and Sciences Hall (ASH) 183 and 185.

STUDENT SAFETY

A variety of resources are available to support student safety and security. Students have experienced or are experiencing a difficult personal situation, should consult the resources available through the Division of Student Success.

OUTCOMES MAP AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Competencies

The student learning outcomes for this course are built upon the following nine social work core competencies set forth by the CSWE's 2022 Educational Polices and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) which is required for all accredited social work programs.

1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior.
2. Advance human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice.
3. Engage anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI) in practice.

4. Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.
5. Engage in policy practice.
6. Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
7. Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
8. Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.
9. Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

This map is intended to show how course topics, content, and activities align to the student learning outcomes outlined above. The CSWE 2022 EPAS core competencies are identified in the first column and mapped to the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs), the field practicum learning contract assignments and the CSWE 2022 EPAS Dimensions.

EPAS Competency*	Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	Assignment	Dimension*
3 = Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice	2. Compose a formal proposal that meets standards for advanced level research, with a special focus on anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI).		
4 = Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice	1. Develop a research proposal, including identifying and refining an issue that merits research, conceptualizing a problem, and operationalizing variables. 2. Compose a formal proposal that meets standards for advanced level research, with a special focus on anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI). 3. Compile a comprehensive literature review. 4. Design research methodology as it relates to the research project, including design, sampling, measurement, and ethics. 5. Conduct a research study, including gaining IRB approval, developing or obtaining measures,		

EPAS Competency*	Course Objective/Student Learning Outcome	Assignment	Dimension*
	collecting data, managing data, and processing and analyzing data. 6. Create a complete formal research report that includes introduction and literature review, method, results, and discussion of their meaning and implications. 7. Present thesis in an oral defense.		

*Dimensions Key:
    K = Knowledge
    S = Skills
    V = Value
    CAP = Cognitive and Affective Processing

REFERENCES AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

References

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.