

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
SWK 350.03 - SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH METHODS (INSIDE-OUT)
FALL 2018 (8/31/18 – 12/14/18)
Fridays, 8:30 am – 11:00 am
Manson Youth Institution, Cheshire, CT**

OUTSIDE Students must be at Manson Youth Institution no later than 8:00 am on class days.

1. RATIONALE:

Generalist social workers are facing increased demands to use evidence-based practice procedures and demonstrate the effectiveness of their own practice. This course in research methods prepares students to use empirically based knowledge and to evaluate their own practice. Students need to learn quantitative and qualitative research methods to conduct and evaluate evidence-based practice.

2. COURSE TITLE: SWK 350.03 - Social Work Research Methods (Inside-Out)

3. INSTRUCTOR: Amy B. Smoyer, PhD
Email: smoyera1@southernct.edu
Phone: (203) 392-7324

4. OFFICE HOURS: By appointment, please email or call instructors to arrange time.**5. PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS:**

- a. INSIDE: GED or High School Diploma. Preference given to those with some college.
- b. OUTSIDE: Junior or Senior Standing. Preference given to Social Work majors.

6. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course in research methods prepares students to use empirically based knowledge and to evaluate their own practice. This course teaches students to develop qualitative and quantitative research designs that examine need, monitor interventions, and assess outcomes in generalist practice. Students learn how to evaluate existing empirical literature that pertains to specific practice topics for diverse at-risk populations. Ethical issues germane to social work research are stressed throughout the course.

7. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand and apply existing research studies to social work practice using critical thinking skills.
2. Understand the primary concepts and skills utilized in qualitative and quantitative social work research methods.
3. Design research projects that assess need, monitor interventions, and assess outcomes in generalist practice, including strategies that attend to human diversity and address the needs of populations at risk.
4. Understand and apply social work values and ethics in the evaluation and research of social work practice.
5. To understand the relationships between research and practice, distinguishing between the use of research in evidence-based practice and the use of research to evaluate social work practice.

8. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Pose a question and conduct an electronic search to identify existing empirical studies that identify evidence for a specific social work practice topic.
- Analyze empirical studies for quality and relevance to a practice topic using critical thinking skills.
- Demonstrate an understanding of primary research concepts and skills through the accurate use of terminology in specific research designs.
- Construct research designs that assess social work practice phases (assessing need, monitoring intervention, assessing outcome) for populations at risk and/or some aspect of human diversity.
- Formulate a human subjects worksheet and informed consent form in accordance with the ethical research practices of the profession for one of the above research designs.
- Demonstrate understanding of the use of evidence for specific aspects of generalist practice by critically analyzing empirical studies.
- Demonstrate understanding of the use of research to evaluate one's social work practice.

9. MODES OF INSTRUCTION: Lectures, class discussion and small group exercises and project.

10. REQUIRED READING:

Text Book: Marlow, C.R. (2011). Research Methods for Generalist Social Work (5thEd.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.

Research Articles (one per class): Photocopies of all articles will be provided by the instructor.

11. COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION: Class attendance and participation, readings, completion of course assignments. Rubrics for each assignment will be distributed.

		<u>Due Date</u>
REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS		
Consuming Research: Research Study Analysis (INDIVIDUAL PROJECT) = 20%		
Worksheet #1: Question	5	09/28/18
Worksheet #2: Analysis of Article	15	10/26/18
Conducting Research (GROUP PROJECT) = 30%		
Needs Assessment OR Program Evaluation	20	11/16/18
With Informed Consent Design		
Group Presentation	10	11/16/18
Class Participation = 20%		
	20	<i>Various</i>
Reflection Papers (6 papers @ 5 pts each) = 30%		
	30	<i>Various</i>
TOTAL POINTS	100	

Submission of Assignments and Lateness Policy

- All written assignments are due by the start of class (8:30 am) on due date.

12. GRADING POLICIES:

Students will receive points for each form of evaluation. The overall grade will be the sum all points earned, divided by 100. For example, 90 points out of 100 = 90% or A-.

Scale: 98 - 100 A+; 94 - 97 A; 90 - 93 A-; 88 - 89 B+; 84 - 87 B; 80 - 83 B-; 78 - 79 C+; 74 - 77 C

13. DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (DRC) ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT:

Southern Connecticut State University provides reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, for students with documented disabilities on an individualized basis. If you are a student with a documented disability, the University's Disability Resource Center (DRC) can work with you to determine appropriate accommodations. Before you receive accommodations in this class, you will need to make an appointment with the Disability Resource Center located at EN C-105A. To discuss your approved accommodations with me or other concerns, such as medical emergencies or arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to meet.

14. HIPAA Alert

In line with the HIPAA regulations, any case information you present from your work needs to be de-identified: any information that would allow someone to know who the person was needs to be changed or eliminated. This includes info like names birth dates and other information that is so unique to the person that it will allow for identification (i.e. diagnosis, race/ethnicity, or gender).

15. TITLE IX STATEMENT:

Southern Connecticut State University is highly committed to providing an educational experience that is academically and socially enriching. In line with this mission, the University enforces Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 which prohibits acts of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking) at educational institutions. To report sexual misconduct students should contact University Police at (203) 392-5375 or 911, and/or Office of Diversity and Equity at (203) 392-5491 and/or Office of Judicial Affairs at (203)392-6188. For advocacy and further information including your Title IX rights and reporting procedures visit the Sexual Assault Resource Team (S.A.R.T.) website at www.southernct.edu/SART/. Please contact Catherine Christy, Women's Center and S.A.R.T. Coordinator, at (203)392-6946 for assistance or with any questions regarding support and advocacy.

16. COURSE OUTLINE

	Date	Topic	Time	Location	Reading	Theme	Activities	Assignment Due
0	TBD	CT DOC Orientation	6:30 pm	MYI		Required for all Outside Students		
1	Friday 8/17	Session#1: INSIDE Students	8:30 am – 11:00 am	MYI		I/O Orientation	Review Syllabus and Course	
	Friday 8/24	Session #1: OUTSIDE Students	8:00 am – 9:30 am	Lang		I/O Orientation	Review Syllabus and Course	
2	Friday 8/31	Introduction & Knowing, Q/Q	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI	1&2	First Combined Meeting	Wagon Wheel	
3	Friday 9/7	Session #3: INSIDE Students	TBD	MYI		Debriefing		Reflection Paper #1
	Friday 9/7	Session #3: OUTSIDE Students	8:00 am – 11:15 am	Lang		Debriefing		Reflection Paper #1
4	Friday 9/14	Building Research Questions & Lit Review	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI	3 & 4	What are prisons for?	Forced Choice Edit Research Questions	
5	Friday 9/21	GUEST SPEAKER/NO AMY	8:30 am – 11:00 am	MYI				
	Week of 9/24	Office Hours & Library Visit	TBD	MYI	INSIDE Office Hours with Amy for Inside Students to finalize research questions & select Tapas Article. OUTSIDE Student to Library Visit on SCSU Campus: Monday 9/24 at 9:10 or 12:10			
6	Friday 9/28	Needs Assessment	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI	5	Why do people commit crimes?	Alligator Exercise	Reflection Paper #2 Worksheet #1
7	Friday 10/5	Program Evaluation	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI	6 & 7	Evaluating Criminal Justice Systems	Analysis of CJ System	Reflection Paper #3
8	Friday 10/12	MYI Tour OUTSIDE Students	TBD	MYI				
9	Friday 10/19	Sampling	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI	8	Myths and Realities of Prison		Reflection Paper #4
10	Friday 10/26	Collecting & Organizing Data	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI	9 & 10	Punishment & Rehabilitation		Reflection Paper #5 3 Day Journal
11	Friday 11/2	Data Analysis	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI	11 & 12	Harm		Worksheet #2: Tapas Article
12	Friday 11/9	Work on Group Project	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI	13		Finalize Group Projects	Reflection Paper #6
13	Friday 11/16	Disseminating and Sharing Research	8:00 am – 11:15 am	MYI			Present Group Projects & Closure	Group Project & Presentation Due
	Friday 11/23	Thanksgiving Break – No Class						
14	Friday 11/30	CLOSING CEREMONY	TBD					
15	Friday 12/7	Debriefing: INSIDE Students	TBD	MYI				Reflection Paper #7
	Friday 12/14	Debriefing: OUTSIDE Students	8:00 am – 11:15 am	Lang				Reflection Paper #7