



*ScWk 242 Course Overview
and Review of
ScWk 240 Concepts*

ScWk 242 Session 1 Slides

Course Description

- This course provides students with the opportunity to apply concepts and skills for conducting research that were introduced last semester in ScWk 240. The course also emphasizes content designed to prepare students to build knowledge in the profession of social work, using both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- The course builds on the first semester by engaging students in the selection and implementation of appropriate methodology and analysis tools for the evaluation of social work practice and policy.
- These concepts and skills are applied to the further development of a research proposal, for which students laid the conceptual foundations in the ScWk 240 course.
- Students also apply these concepts and skills to the critical assessment of social work research on Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and other diverse and oppressed populations. ScWk 242 concludes the first-year core research curriculum, which provides the conceptual knowledge and skills for the Master of Social Work Special Project (ScWk 298).
- ScWk 242 presupposes a foundational knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods, basic research design concepts, sampling methodology, models for group comparisons, single-system methodology, as well as basic computer literacy.

Overview - Major Research Issues

- **Importance of scientific inquiry in social work**
- **Strategies for measuring social work effectiveness**
- **Need to carefully analyze and critique research quality**
- **Importance of compassion and professional ethics**
- **Understanding the principles of the scientific method**
- **Recognizing flaws in unscientific and untested sources**
- **Reliability and Validity**
- **Realizing that all researchers faces challenges & choices**

Important Research Concepts

- **Quantitative, Qualitative, Single Subject, and Evaluation**
- **Types of Measures – Nominal, Ordinal, Interval, & Ratio**
- **Sampling Options and Challenges**
- **Research Designs, including Pre-, Quasi-, & Experimental**
- **Internal and External Validity**
- **Needs Assessment and Use of Logic Models**
- **Process and Outcome Program Evaluation**
- **Accountability and Politics in Research**

Competencies Covered in this Course

- **Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.**
- **Engage in research informed practice and practice informed research).**
- **Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment**
- **Evaluation: Critically analyze, monitor and evaluate interventions**

Assignments

Assignment 1: Qualitative Labs 1 and 2:

Assignment 1 includes two qualitative analysis labs. Each lab will include a 3 page written report (double-spaced, total that includes an analysis of qualitative data generated from: 1) interviews, 2) focus groups, and 3) observations. Data will be obtained through in-class exercises. Specific assignment directions will be provided in class. This assignment is worth 10 points. Qualitative Lab #1 (Interviewing) is due on 2/13/13 and Qualitative Lab #2 (the Focus Groups) assignment is due on 2/20/13.

Assignment 2: Quantitative Labs 1-3:

Quantitative labs will use the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) computer program and will involve hands-on exercises with the computer, utilizing SPSS for Windows for data analysis. Students will complete formal lab exercises involving the analysis of data provided by the instructor. Skills and examples necessary to complete these exercises will be taught and can be completed in class or on your own time. This information will be directly applicable to material covered in the course examinations. The main analysis topics are as follows: descriptive statistics, Chi-square test, and *t*-test. Write-ups for the 3 labs are worth 10 points and are due 3/6/13, 3/13/13, and 3/20/13.

Assignments (Continued)

Assignment 3: Program Evaluation Design

The purpose of the Program Evaluation Design assignment is to: apply program evaluation concepts to a social work field of practice, and apply quantitative and qualitative analysis concepts. Consider one program within the agency where you are currently working, or plan to be placed for your internship. Develop a logic model for the program using the logic model template and then write a 3 to 4 page paper describing the logic model and evaluation design. Additional directions will be provided in class. Assignment is worth 20 points and is due on 4/17/13.

Assignment 4: Revised literature review, methods & analysis plan for ScWK 240 proposal

This is an extension of your research proposal begun in ScWk 240. It is the application of both the methodological and analysis skills learned during the first year of the MSW research sequence. In particular, you will be asked to 1) revise your literature review, 2) develop the research methods for your proposed study and 3) add an analysis section which outlines which analysis procedures and statistical tests you will employ. Additional assignment directions will be provided. Assignment 4 is worth 30 points and is due on 5/8/13.

Exam and Participation

Exam:

The exam will cover all course materials, i.e., readings, lecture notes, class examples, and lab materials. The format of this exam may consist of multiple choice, short answer or essay questions that will ask you to synthesize what you have learned and apply it to an area of social work practice. The exam is worth 20 points and will take place on 5/1/13

Class Participation:

Class participation will be assessed according to engagement in class discussions and involvement during group exercises. This component is worth 10 points.