



SPRING SUMMER 2020			
Course Number	SOWK 645 S01	Classroom	Online
Course Name	Issues in Social Work Research		
Day(s) & Time	June 1 – 17, 2020		
Instructor	Sherri Tanchak, PhD(c), MSW, RSW	Office Hours	By Appointment
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SYLLABUS STATEMENT			
An overview of social work research topics, issues and methods.			
COURSE DESCRIPTION			
Social workers are required to be proficient in evaluating existing research literature to guide decision making, evaluate the effectiveness of practice, and contribute to the knowledge base of the profession and competence in various approaches to support anti-oppressive models of practice in all fields and levels of practice. At the graduate level, students should be familiar with quantitative and qualitative research methods and Indigenous approaches that characterize knowledge generation in the profession, and should be proficient in one or more approaches. In this course, student will have examine concepts and methods of social work research through a variety of learning activities such as presentations, assigned readings, online discussion, exercises and assignments.			
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES			
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understand various knowledge-building paradigms with particular attention to the scientific method, Indigenous ways of knowing, and feminist and participatory methods, 2. have the knowledge and skills to critique, apply, or participate in social work research. 3. have an awareness of ethical issues in research, 4. have the knowledge and skills to critique, apply, or participate in social work research. 			
LEARNING RESOURCES			
<u>REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND/OR READINGS</u>			
Bryman, A., & Bell, E. (2019). <i>Social Research Methods</i> (5 th ed.). Oxford University Press.			
<u>LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For this course, a D2L site has been set up. On the course D2L site, student can access information about the course, course instructor, assignments and grading, and learning resources. For this course there is a weekly schedule seminar that will be delivered via Zoom. Student can access the zoom link from the course D2L site. • A laptop, desktop or mobile device with Internet access, microphone and speaker is required for D2L and Zoom access. 			

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES			
This course is offered in the spring/summer term of the first year of the Foundation program in the Clinical Master of Social Work program that is offered in the Central and Northern Alberta Region of the Faculty of Social Work. The focus on qualitative and quantitative research will provide foundational knowledge for SOWK559: Evidence in Clinical Practice, SOWK 632 Social Policy and Social Justice and SOWK 641: Models of Practice.			
CLASS SCHEDULE			
Course Orientation: June 1 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)			
Online Delivery: Zoom (<i>Instructor to provide Zoom link and password 1 week prior to the orientation</i>)			
Topics: Course Outline, D2L and Zoom, Seminar Format, Learning Activities, Assignments & Grading			
Week 1: June 1 – June 7 (Research Paradigms, Research Process, Research Ethics, Developing a Research Intent)			
Readings	Pre-Seminar Assignment	Seminar (Zoom) (6:30pm – 8:00pm)	Post- Seminar Assignment
Bryman & Bell (2019) Chs. 1 - 3	Research Ethics Tutorial	June 4	Research Project (Part 1) - Research Intent
Week 2: June 8 – June 14 (Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis; Reviewing Qualitative Research Publications; Developing Annotated Bibliographies)			
Readings	Pre-Seminar Assignment	Seminar (Zoom) (6:30pm – 8:00pm)	Post Seminar Assignments
Bryman & Bell (2019) Chs. 9 - 13	Video and Qualitative Research Questions	June 11	Becoming a Critical Consumer of Qualitative Research
Week 3: June 15 – June 21 (Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis; Reviewing Quantitative Research Publications; Developing Research Proposals)			
Readings	Pre-Seminar Assignment	Seminar (Zoom) (6:30pm – 8:00pm)	Post Seminar Assignments
Bryman & Bell (2019) Chs. 4-8	Video and Quantitative Research Questions	June 17	Becoming a Critical Consumer of Quantitative Research Research Project Part 2: Annotated Bibliography Research Project Part 3: Research Proposal

ASSIGNMENTS				
Assignment	Weight	Due Date (by 7pm)	Description (Additional assignment details and Grading Rubrics available on course D2L)	Aligned Learning Objectives
Pre-Seminar Learning Activities	5%	June 3	Week 1 Discussion Board: Complete the TCPS2 Core Tutorial (https://tcps2core.ca/login), respond to the posted question on discussion board and attach your certificate of completion.	3,4
	5%	June 10	Week 2 Discussion Board: Review the posted video and respond to the qualitative research questions for week 2 on the discussion board.	1,2,3,4
	5%	June 16	Week 3 Discussion Board: Review the posted video and respond to the quantitative research questions for week 3 on the discussion board.	1,2,3,4
Qualitative Article Review	15%	June 16	Select an article from the qualitative publications posted on the course D2L site and examine the articles by answering posted critical review questions. Submit assignment to Dropbox.	1,2,3
Quantitative Article Review	15%	June 23	Select an article from the quantitative publications posted on the course D2L site and examine the articles by answering posted critical review questions. Submit assignment to Dropbox.	1,2,3
Developing a Research Project	10%	June 10	Part 1 – Research Intent Develop a 3 page research intent (excluding title page and references) about an important social issue or problem that you would like to focus on for the research proposal assignment.	1,2
	15%	June 16	Part 2 – Annotated Bibliography Prepare an annotated bibliography from 5 current academic sources to inform your research proposal.	2,4
	30%	June 25	Part 3 – Research Proposal Develop a 12-15 page research proposal that will lead to a better understanding of a selected social issue from the positivist or interpretivist traditions.	1,2,3,4

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND RELATED INFORMATION

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS IN ONLINE CLASSES

Students are expected to participate actively in all Zoom sessions. If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected, if they are able, to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.). All students are expected to behave in a professional manner during the session.

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

MEDIA RECORDING FOR ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION INFORMATION

SUBMISSION OF COURSE WORK

Unless otherwise noted by the instructor, all assignments are to be submitted via digital drop box on D2L. It is the student's responsibility to confirm with the instructor that the assignment has been received. It is the instructor's responsibility to reply to any confirmation email from the student, and to inform the student promptly if there are any problems with the file (unable to open attachment, damaged data, etc.). In such cases, it is the responsibility of the student to promptly consult with the instructor regarding an alternate delivery method (e.g. courier, fax, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to retain a copy of the original document.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to submit all assignments by the indicated date and time on the course schedule, unless prior arrangements have been confirmed with the instructor or a crisis has occurred. Any assignments not handed in by the assigned time on the date they are due (via digital dropbox) will be considered late, unless arrangements have been made, as described above. Late assignments can be handed in up to ONE weeks past the original due date however, a 25% penalty shall be applied to all late assignments. [Note: *exceptional* circumstances may be exempt]

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

- APA 7TH Edition is the adopted guide for formatting all course work.
- If you need writing support, please connect with the Student Success Centre, at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>

GRADING

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course. The University of Calgary Graduate Grading System will be used.

University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work, Central and Northern Alberta Region MSW Grading System			
Grade	Grade Point	Description	Percentage
A+	4.0	Outstanding	95-100
A	4.0	Excellent – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter	95-100
A-	3.7	Very Good Performance	90-94
B+	3.3	Good Performance	85-89
B	3.0	Satisfactory performance. Note: The grade point value (3.0) associated with this grade is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the programme as computed at the end of each year of their program.	80-84
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in Graduate Studies. Note: Students who accumulate two grades of “B-” or lower can be required by the Faculty to withdraw from the programme regardless of the grade point average.	75-79
C+	2.3	All grades below “B-” are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted towards Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.	70-74
C	2.00		65-69
C-	1.70		60-64
D+	1.30		55-59
D	1.00		50-54
F	0.00		Below 50

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.

WITHDRAWAL

No refunds for withdrawal from six-week **spring session half-courses** after May 12, 2020. The last day for registration and changes of registration for six-week spring session half-courses is May 12, 2020. The last day to withdraw with permission from six-week **spring session half-courses** is 4:00 p.m. on June 17, 2020. The deadline to withdraw with permission from spring session block courses is 4:00 p.m. on the last business day prior to the end of the block course. The Graduate Academic Schedule for 2020-2021 can be viewed at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html> . The online version of the academic schedule supersedes the information on this course outline.

COURSE EVALUATION

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University and Faculty of Social Work course evaluation forms. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As members of the University community, students and staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>

Students and staff are also expected to demonstrate professional behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. Consistent with the aims of the Social Work Program and the University of Calgary, all students and staff are expected to respect, appreciate, and encourage expression of diverse world views and perspectives; to offer their fellow community members unconditional respect and constructive feedback; and to contribute to building learning communities that promote individual and collective professional and personal growth. While critical thought and debate is valued in response to concepts and opinions shared in class, feedback must always be focused on the ideas or opinions shared and not on the person who has stated them.

Students and staff are expected to model behaviour in class that is consistent with our professional values and ethics, as outlined in the Canadian Association for Social Workers, Code of Ethics (2005) and the Alberta College of Social Work Standards of Practice (2019). Both can be found online at:

<https://acsw.ab.ca/site/practice-resources?nav=sidebar>

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is expected that all work submitted in assignments should be the student's own work, written expressly by the student for this particular course. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar (www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html) and are reminded that plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Writing skills are important to academic study. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS). SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

RESEARCH ETHICS

"If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics Website (<https://research.ucalgary.ca/conduct-research/ethics-compliance/human-research-ethics/conjoint-faculties-research-ethics>) before beginning the assignment.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- **Wellness and Mental Health Resources**
- **Student Success**
- **Student Ombuds Office**
- **Student Union (SU) Information**
- **Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information**
- **Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points**