



Westfield State University Social Work Program

On-Line Course Preview Page for: SOCW 0511 Research I Section 501 & 502

Instructor:

Sunday Fakunmoju, LCSW-C, Ph.D.

Instructor Availability:

Should you have any questions, feel free to email me at SFakunmoju@wsc.ma.edu (I usually respond to emails within 48 hours) or call me at (number will be given at the beginning of semester)

Course Description:

The course will introduce students to the basics of social science research by examining the research process, purposes of research, and the philosophy of research. Students will learn about the basics of measurement, sampling, and causation. Students will review the basic approaches to research, including qualitative research, experiments, surveys, and historical and comparative research.

Course Information:

This is an asynchronous 4 credit hour course offered completely on-line. By asynchronous it means that we will not meet at specific times on-line. Instead, you are expected to access course information, complete necessary assignments, quizzes, and exams on-line at your own convenience.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Describe the role of research in social work practice.
2. Describe the impact and implications of social work values to research.
3. Formulate a research question and hypotheses.
4. Describe the role of measurement and develop basic measurement instruments.
5. Describe sampling theory and develop sampling methods.

6. Design a simple research project using experimentation, surveys, qualitative methods, and historical and comparative methods.
7. Describe the principle of causation and develop research methods that maximize the potential to determine causation.

Course Requirements:

There are 11 chapters to read from the required text, accompanied interchangeably by weekly assignments and chapter quizzes. Powerpoint slides as well as web site and journal references are provided to supplement reading. Students will complete annotated bibliography group assignment and choose a social work related research topic of interest to them for a final research paper. In addition, students will be required to take mid-term and final exam as well as participate in on-line discussion. Detailed information is provided in the course syllabus.

Course Grading:

Your final grade will comprise of your performance on:

1. Chapter quizzes and assignments (10%),
2. Annotated bibliography (10%),
3. Online discussion and participation (5%),
4. Research paper (25%),
5. Mid-term (25%), and
6. Final exam (25%).

NOTE: Students are encouraged to make initial contact with the instructor via e-mail or phone for further clarification. Students also are encouraged to provide the instructor a valid email address for communication during the semester.

Required Textbook (available at the WSU Bookstore):

Monette, D., Sullivan, T. & DeJong, C. (2010). *Applied social research: Tools for the human services* (8th ed.). NY: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.