

**Westfield State College  
Social Work Program**

On-Line Course Preview Page for:  
**SOCW 0301**

***Advanced Research Methods in Social Work***  
*Section 002*  
*On-Line Section*

**Instructor:**

Robert C. Kersting, ACSW, Ph.D.

**Instructor Availability:**

Feel free to email me at [rkersting@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:rkersting@wsc.ma.edu) (I will respond to all emails within 48 hours) or call me at 413-572-5536

**Catalogue Description:**

This course builds on research skills and knowledge developed in SOCW 0204 "Introduction to Research Methods." This course examines the topics of advanced measurement, program evaluation, N of 1 research, and ethics in research. The course also introduces the student to basic bivariate and multivariate statistical methods used to evaluate quantitative research data. Prerequisite SOCW 0204 Research Methods in Social Work

**Course Information:**

This is a 3 credit hour course.

This course is offered totally on-line.

This course is asynchronous which means that there are no specific times you must be on-line.

**Technical Requirements:**

Students need a computer with DSL or Cable internet connection. Students need a web-browser (e.g. Explorer, Safari, etc.), a word processing program (MS Word, Apple Pages, etc.), a spreadsheet program is recommended (MS Excel, Apple Numbers, etc.), and iTunes (a free download from Apple for PCs and Macs). Students need basic web-browser skills and word processing skills. Other needed computer skills will be taught as part of the class. Students will be required to spend some time in the college computer labs using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) for four homework assignments. Students will not be required to purchase any additional software or media beyond the course textbook. Students who wish to purchase the student version of SPSS (approximate cost \$100) should contact the instructor.

NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to make initial contact with the instructor either via e-mail or phone. Student must have a valid working email address on file with the instructor."

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of this course the student will demonstrate:

1. an understanding of the basic research principles involved in measurement, sampling, and design
2. the ability to design a simple N of 1 research design

3. the ability to design a simple evaluation research design
4. the ability to complete and interpret simple qualitative data analysis
5. the ability to program a computer for and interpret the following results/statistical tests: descriptive statistics, correlations, t-tests, simple regression, multiple regression, and ANOVA.
6. an understanding of the principle ethical issues in human subject research
7. the ability to evaluate research articles for use in practice.

**Textbook (available at the WSC Bookstore):**

Cherry, AL. (2000) *A research primer for the helping professions: Methods, statistics, and writing*. Belmont: Brooks/Cole.

And the book from SOCW 0204:

Schutt, Russell K. (2004) *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research 4th ed.* Newbury Park, CA: Pine Forge Press. with CD-ROM