

SS3290: SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Social Work Research

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

3290

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

One of the Major Intended Learning Outcomes is that students will be able to conduct research studies with an aim to engage in evidence-based practice. This course is designed to help students to achieve this outcome. In order to build

indigenous practice knowledge appropriate to the local setting, this course will offer students hands-on experience using a range of research methodologies and techniques in developing and using research from a practitioner's perspective.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Describe the empirical research process and methods;	20	x		
2	Apply research methods that are fundamental to the development and completion of a social work research project;	30	x	x	
3	Examine critically factors involved in the selection of research designs and techniques appropriate to the study of social work services and programmes; and	20	x	x	
4	Demonstrate competency in evaluating research studies and using appropriate statistical tests.	30	x	x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Students will engage in formal lectures to gain knowledge about important concepts, skills, designs, and philosophical paradigms of research methods and apply research-related techniques in social work research.	1, 2, 4	
2	SPSS Exercise	Students will participate in conducting basic statistical modelling procedures through hands-on practices to use the evidence-based approach to conduct social work research in the future.	2, 3, 4	

3	Group Research Project by Guided and Supervised the Teachers	Students will form small groups to work on research tasks under close supervision and support from the teacher.	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	In-Class Assessment	Students will take part in an MC quiz near the end of the course to assess their comprehension of important research knowledge, skills, and methods that are most likely to be used in the future of their profession.	1, 2, 3, 4	
5	Critiquing a Research Paper	Students will participate in selecting one of the research papers published in refereed journals to review and comment on it to assess their ability to apply research knowledge, skills, and scientific logic prepared for future research-related practices in the profession.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	SPSS Exercise	2, 3, 4	15	-	No
2	MC Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	25	-	No
3	Research Paper Critique	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Use AI for conducting proof editing	Yes
4	Group Research Report	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

SPSS Exercise

Criterion

- 1.1 Ability to apply research concepts, methods, and knowledge for conducting social work research.
- 1.2 Ability to conduct statistical procedures by using SPSS software for evidence-based social work research.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels.

Assessment Task

MC Quiz

Criterion

Ability to understand and answer questions of research methods and techniques.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Research Paper Critique

Criterion

Ability to review, comment, and improve current research

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Group research Project

Criterion

4.1 Ability to apply social science knowledge and research methodology with accuracy in conducting a group social work research project.

4.2 Ability to think clearly and rationally in discussion of issues on a group social work research project.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Scientific Attitude. Theory and Research. The Ethics and Politics of Social Work Research. Empirical Research Process (Problem Formulation; Conceptualization and Operationalization; Measurement; Constructing Measurement Instruments; The Logic of Sampling; Causal Inference and Group Designs). Research designs and methods (Survey Research; Qualitative Research Methods; Unobtrusive Research; Quantitative and Qualitative Methods). Statistical Analysis (Processing Data; Interpreting Descriptive Statistics and Tables; Inferential Data Analysis; SPSS).

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Engel, R. J., & Schutt, R. K. (2016). The practice of research in social work. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
2	Rubin, Allen, & Babbie, E. R. (2017). Research methods for social work. Boston, MA : Cengage Learning.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Field, A. (2013). Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics: and sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll. London: SAGE
2	Weinbach, Robert W. (2005). Evaluating social work services and programs Boston, Mass. : Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.
3	Grinnell, R. M., & Unrau, Y. A. (2014). Social work research and evaluation: Foundations of evidence-based practice. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4	Maschi, T., & Youdin, R. (2012). Social worker as researcher: Integrating research with advocacy. Boston: Pearson.

5	Shaw I. et al. (Eds) (2010). The SAGE handbook of social work research. Los Angeles: SAGE. Corby, B (2006). Applying research in social work practice. Maidenhead : Open University Press.
6	Orme, J. (2010). Developing research based social work practice / Joan Orme, David Shemmings. Basingstoke, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.
7	American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA.