SOCF5110

Professional Practice Research Project

Term Two // 2019

School of Social Sciences // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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Maureen MacGinley	maureen.macginley@unsw.edu.au	Wednesdays 9am - 1pm or by appointment	Morven Brown G14	02 93858998

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School of Social Sciences

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Social Work

This is a 12 UOC Professional Practice Research Project course. You will enrol in a 6 uoc course in each of two successive terms with a result reported by a single grade at the end of the second 6 uoc course. In this course, SOCF5110 Professional Practice Research Project, you will commence and work towards an independent research project with a topic directly related to your professional practice knowledge in Counselling Social Work, Couple and Family Therapy, or Social Development. Topic approval is required by the relevant Masters Coursework Program Coordinator. Project report word length is 12,000-14,000 words, and variation within this range is to be negotiated with the Supervisor according to the specific requirements of the research project and its methodology.

Note: Application forms to undertake this course are available from the relevant Program Coordinator and must be lodged for consideration by the end of the teaching period preceding the start of the research project.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Design, develop, and report on a research project related to social work and/or counselling theory or practice.
2. Review the literature on a research topic related to social work and/or counselling theory or practice.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a core area of social work and/or counselling theory and practice.

Teaching Strategies

In this final post-graduate course, you are expected to undertake independent research in the completion of your project. Academic supervision will provide an environment for student consultation in the planning and completion of the project. In completing this course there is an expectation that you will use an analytical approach to your work, and show the ability to apply theory and to think critically. Evidence of this must be provided in the final project report, which is produced at the relevant due date in the course SOCF5111 Professional Practice Research Project B (the associated course to this course). You are responsible for the pace and progress of their research, and for raising with the Supervisor and/or Coordinator any challenges or difficulties with your learning. Supervision will be spaced over the semester, with opportunities for progressive feedback and negotiated milestone tasks.

The feedback sheets/rubrics will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Additional details:

The report (thesis) will require students to complete an introduction and rationale for their proposed research topic (1,000 – 2,000 words); a comprehensive review of the relevant literature (6,000 – 8,000 words); and, a proposed methodology for future research that includes a full consideration of ethical considerations (2,000 words). Suggested word length is indicative only.

The project chosen and the thesis should serve as a preparation step toward a DSW or PhD research study. The report will comprise 100% of the grade. Two markers will assess the report and the final mark will reflect the difference between the two marks awarded. The marking criteria are below:

Criterion	85+	75-84%	65-74%	<65%
Originality	Topic clearly original work, providing new insights into the subject matter.	Topic shows evidence of originality, extends knowledge in the field	Show some degree of originality but mainly follows existing studies.	Little or no evidence of original content.
Use of theory/ methodology	Integrates theory into the discussion paper well. Shows thorough understanding of existing theory. In empirical theses the methodology is well-chosen and competently presented.	Theory quite well integrated into the discussion. Shows good understanding of theory. In empirical theses the methodology proposed is sound.	Theory partly integrated into discussion. Shows only basic understanding of theory. In empirical theses the methodology proposed is	

			be clearer.	
Sources	Insightful and thorough review of literature on the topic.	Sound review of existing literature	Adequate review of existing literature but showing few insights.	Poor review of existing literature with significant omissions.
Contribution to knowledge	Publishable in a journal with minimal modification and shaping.	Publishable in a journal but with some /moderate modification and shaping	Unlikely to be publishable even with substantial modification	Not publishable

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Not available

Recommended Resources

Recommended Resources:

1. Bryman, A. (2012). Social research methods (4th ed.). Oxford, England: Oxford University.

2. Sprenkle, D.H. & Piercy, F.P. (eds) (2005). Research Methods in Family Therapy, Guilford Press:

New York. This publication can be purchased on-line by accessing the following URL: http://www.qbd.com.au/product/9781572309609 Research_Methods_In_Family_Therapy_by_Sprenkle_Douglas_H_EDT_Piercy_Fred_P_EDT_.htm

Additional readings:

1. Babbie, E. (2007). The practice of social research (11th ed.). Belmont: Wadsworth.

2. Neuman, W.L. (2003). Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches (6thed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

3. Rubin, A., & Babbie, E. R. (2008). Research methods for social work (6th ed.). Belmont, CA:Thomson Higher Education.

4. Holosko, M. J. (2006). Primer for critiquing social research: A student guide. Belmont, CA:Thomson Higher Education.

Students are encouraged to access other material through academic journals and the internet. Useful journals include:

Social Work Research

Qualitative Inquiry

British Journal of Social Work

Journal of Social Work Education

Journal of Social Service Research

Research on Social Work Practice

Social Work

International Journal of Social Welfare

Evaluation Review Journal of Applied Research International Journal of Social Research Methodology Family Process

British Journal of Family Therapy

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy

Please note, a Review of family, couples and systemic therapy outcome research 2000-2009 by Peter Stratton, Emma Silver, Natasha Nascimento, Gwen Powell, Liz McDonnell & Ewa Novotny is available at http://www.aft.org.uk/training/research.asp

Recommended Resources for specific areas include:

Research Ethics

Antle, B. J. & Regehr, C. (2003). Beyond individual rights and freedoms: meta-ethics in social work research. Social Work, 48, 135-144.

Butler, I. (2002). A code of ethics for social work and social care research, British Journal of Social Work. 3, 239-248.

Ramcharan, P. & Cutcliffe, J. R. (2001). Judging the ethics of qualitative research: considering the 'ethics as process' model. Health & Social Care in the Community 9, 351-66.

Margolin, G. Chien, D., Duman, S. Fauchier, A. Gordis, E. Oliver, P. Ramos, M. and Vickerman, K. (2005). 'Ethical Issues in Couple and Family Research', Journal of Family Psychology, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 157–167

Evidence-based practice & reflective research

Crisp, B. (2004). Evidence-based practice and the borders of data in the global information era. Journal of Social Work Education, 40, 73-86.

Fook, J. (Ed.) (1996). The reflective researcher: Social workers' theories of practice research. St Leonards: Allen & Unwin.

Gibbs, L. & Gambrill, E. (2002). Evidence-based practice: counterarguments to objections. Research on Social Work Practice, 12, 452-476.

McDonald, C. (2003). Forward via the past? Evidence-based practice as strategy in social work. The Drawing Board: An Australian Review of Public Affairs, 3, 123-142.

Plath, D. (2006). Evidence-based practice: current issues and future directions. Australian Social Work, 59, 56-72.

Rosen, A. (2003). Evidence-based social work practice: challenges and promise. Social Work Research, 27, 197-208.

Webb, S. A. (2001). Some considerations on the validity of evidence-based practice in social work.

British Journal of Social Work, 31, 57-79.

Corby, B. (2006). Applying research in social work practice. Maidenhead: Open University. Grinnell, R. M. (Ed.) (1988). Social work research and evaluation. Itasca: FE Peacock.

Marlow, C. R. (2005). Research methods for generalist social work. Belmont: Brooks/Cole. Neuman, W. L. & Kreuger, L. W. (2003). Social work research methods: Qualitative and quantitative applications. Boston: Pearson Education.

Royse, D. (2004). Research methods in social work (4th ed.). Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole. Sarantakos, S. (2005). Social research (3rd ed.). London: Macmillan.

Walter, M. (Ed.) (2006). Social research methods: an Australian perspective. South Melbourne: Oxford

Recommended online materials and other useful sources

1. Society for Social Work and Research - http://www.sswr.org/
2. Evidence Based Practice in Health Care - http://www.biomed.lib.umn.edu/learn/ebp/
3. The Family Therapy and Systemic Research Centre – http://www.uel-ftsrc.org/
4. Social Research Association www.the-sra.org.uk
5. Quantitative Research Design http://www.experiment-resources.com/quantitative-research-design.html
6. Evidence Based Practice in Health Care - http://www.biomed.lib.umn.edu/learn/ebp
7. Program Evaluation and Design - http://managementhelp.org/evaluatn/fnl_eval.htm

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;