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SWK 340: Social Work Research Methods OER Collection

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## SWK 340: Course Schedule

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# SWK 340: SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH METHODS

Spring 2021, 3 credits, CRN 21157, 16-weeks  
January 19 – May 8

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Virtual Student Hours: Wednesdays 8:30-10am or by Appointment  
Class Meetings: Mondays 2-3pm Virtual Synchronous

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The SWK 340 Course Schedule is an overview of the **assignments and due dates** for the semester. On the SWK 340 Blackboard site, you will find *8 Learning Modules* made up of *2 weeks each*. The modules provide you with links to all the course materials.

Reading, reviewing, watching and listening to the provided resources in each Module should be *completed during the week in which the activities are listed on the schedule*. Assignments, Quizzes and Discussion Forums have specific due dates and all work should be submitted before 11:59pm EST. You are responsible for reading and following the course schedule and meeting deadlines. Please plan accordingly.

Email questions to your instructor or use the Virtual Office Forum. You will get a response within 24 hours or less. You can also bring up questions in our class meetings or schedule an appointment for a virtual meeting by emailing the instructor.

Social Work Research Methods is a fast-paced class with a lot of material to learn and build upon as we move through the lessons. Make sure to *keep on top of readings and attend all classes* in order to get the most benefit. I am here to assist you and support you as you learn about research techniques and develop a proposal for your own research project idea. Please *reach out with questions sooner rather than later* and we will work together to make this a successful course!

## Module 1: Introduction to Social Work Research

### Week 1: Intro to Research

January 18-24

**Virtual Class Meetings Start *Next Monday*** (Jan 25, 2-3pm)

#### Read & Review:

- Chapter 1 Introduction to Research (assigned text)
- PowerPoint slides
- Syllabus and Course Schedule

#### Watch & Listen:

- What is Research? Definition, Purpose and Typical Researchers (6:25)
- Definition of Research (7:18)

#### Assignment:

- Wednesday January 20, Submit Syllabus Confirmation

#### Quiz:

- Sunday January 24, Resource & Syllabus Review Quiz

### Week 2: Beginning a Research Project

January 25-31

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday January 25, 2-3pm      Find the Zoom Link on Blackboard

#### Read & Review:

- Chapter 2 Beginning a Research Project (assigned text)
- Student Research Proposal Example
- PowerPoint slides
- Final Research Proposal Instructions (Due in Module 7)

#### Watch & Listen:

- Picking your topic IS research! (3:09)
- Handout: Hierarchy of Evidence
- How to Write a Research Proposal (41:20)

#### Assignment:

- Be working on developing your research problem, question and hypothesis due next week

#### Quiz:

- Sunday January 31, Chapters 1, 2

## Module 2: Developing Research Questions

### Week 3: Research Questions

February 1-7

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday February 1, 2-3pm

Find the Zoom Link on Blackboard

**Read & Review:**

- Chapter 7 Design and Causality (assigned text)
- Chapter 8 Creating and Refining a Research Question (assigned text)
- Research Questions and Hypothesis Worksheet
- Narrowing your Research Question Worksheet
- PowerPoint Slides
- APA Self-Check Practice Tool

**Watch & Listen:**

- Developing a Research Question (6:25)
- How to develop a STRONG research question in 5 easy steps! (4:18)
- 6 Steps to form a strong research hypothesis! (3:30)
- Research Guides from USC: The research/problem/question and independent and dependent variables

**Assignment:**

- Be working on Exercise 1 due next week

**Quiz:**

- Sunday, February 7, APA Format Quiz

### Week 4: Defining Concepts

February 8-14

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday February 8, 2-3pm**Read & Review:**

- Chapter 9 Defining and Measuring Concepts (assigned text)
- Handout: Non-probability vs. Probability
- Handout: Reliability vs. Validity
- Handout: Quantitative vs Qualitative Methods
- PowerPoint Slides

**Watch & Listen:**

- How to write a successful research proposal! (4:25)
- Operational Definitions Overview (3:08)

**Assignment:**

- Wednesday February 10, Exercise 1: Research Problem, Question & Hypothesis Draft

**Quiz:**

- Sunday February 14, Chapters 7, 8 & 9

## Module 3: Reviewing the Literature

### Week 5: Literature Reviews

February 15-21

**NO Virtual Class Meeting:** President's Day

#### Read & Review:

- Chapter 3 Reading and Evaluating Literature (assigned text)
- Handout: How to Read a Research Article and Evaluate the Research
- Handout: Reading a Research Article
- PowerPoint slides

#### Watch & Listen:

- From Questions to Keywords (1:41)
- How to Find Scholarly Peer-Reviewed Articles
- Tips on Keywords and Article Searches

#### Assignment:

- Work on finding articles for your literature review

### Week 6: Literature Continued

February 22-28

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday February 22, 2-3pm

#### Read & Review:

- Chapter 4 Conducting a Literature Review (assigned text)
- PowerPoint Slides
- Art of reading a journal article: Methodically and effectively

#### Watch & Listen:

- How to write a literature review in 5 easy steps! (3:04)
- Anatomy of a Research Article (5:48)

#### Quiz:

- Sunday February 28, Chapters 3 & 4

#### Assignment:

- Work on Exercise 2: Literature Review Draft due next week

## Module 4: Interpreting Research

### Week 7: Reading and Evaluating Literature

March 1-7

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday March 1, 2-3pm

#### Read & Review:

- Handout: Checklist for Evaluating Research Articles
- Handout: Guidelines to Evaluating a Research Paper
- Handout: Literature Review Example Article
- How to Read a Research Article
- Self-care practices among social workers (Chp 3 article)
- Powerpoint Slides

#### Watch & Listen:

- Anatomy of a Research Article (5:48)

#### Assignment:

- Wednesday March 3, Exercise 2: Literature Review Section

### Week 8: Interpreting Research

March 8-14

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday March 8, 2-3pm

#### Read & Review:

- Handout: Quantitative vs Qualitative Methods
- Hierarchy of Evidence Handout (review)

#### Watch & Listen:

- Experimental vs. Non-experimental Studies (7:36)
- Qualitative versus Quantitative Research (9:02)

#### Assignments:

- Look ahead and begin working on your Ethics section and the CITI certification in Module 5

## Module 5: Research Ethics and Human Subjects

### Week 9: Research Ethics & Theory

March 15-21

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday March 15, 2-3pm

#### Read & Review:

- Chapter 5 Ethics in Social Work Research (assigned text)
- Chapter 6 Linking Methods with Theory (assigned text)
- Handout: Why social work research ethics? J. Clark
- PowerPoint Slides

#### Watch & Listen:

- Ethics of Research (4:08)
- The Social Work Podcast: The Process of Evidence-Based Practice (22:23)

#### Assignments:

- Wednesday March 17, Exercise 3: Ethics section (include subject protection plan)
- Sunday March 21, Complete CITI Course and submit certificate of completion

### Week 10: Research Ethics, Theory & Human Subjects

March 22-28

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday March 22, 2-3pm

#### Read & Review:

- Chapter 10 Sampling (assigned text)
- Chapter 11 Survey Research (assigned text)
- Chapter 12 Experimental Design (assigned text)
- Handout: Perils of Cherry Picking
- Handout: Do Non-Citizens Vote?
- PowerPoint Slides

#### Watch & Listen:

- Using Semi-structured Interviews in Qualitative Research (14:16)
- How to Choose a Research Method and Design (6:23)
- How to write the research methodology section in 5 easy steps! (4:53)

#### Assignments:

- Work on Exercise 4: Research methods section due in Module 6

#### Quiz:

- Sunday March 28, Chapters 5 & 6

## Module 6: Measurement, Design and Sampling

### Week 11: Measurement, Design and Sampling

March 29-April 4

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday March 29, 2-3pm

#### Read & Review:

- Handout: Reflect on Measurements
- Sampling Research Methods Overview - OER Text Bhattacharjee
- Handout: Best Data Collection Methods for Quantitative Research
- Handout: Common Statistical Tests
- Handout: Reading Statistics for Stellar Students

#### Watch & Listen:

- Random Assignment (4:54)
- Quantitative Research Designs (6:37)
- Populations and sampling in social sciences (13:24)

#### Assignment:

- Wednesday March 31, Exercise 4: Methods section of proposal (This includes making revisions based on feedback for to your ethics section.)

#### Quiz:

- Sunday April 4, Chapters 10, 11 & 12

### Week 12: Study Design

April 5-11

**Virtual Class Meeting:** Monday April 5, 2-3pm

#### Read & Review:

- Chapter 13 Interviews and Focus Groups (assigned text)
- Chapter 14 Unobtrusive Research (assigned text)
- Handouts: Focus Group Guide Examples 1 & 2
- PowerPoint Slides

#### Watch & Listen:

- Research Methodologies Quantitative/Qualitative/Mixed Methods (6:10)
- What is Statistics: Crash Course (12:59)

#### Assignment:

- Wednesday April 7, Exercise 5: Abstract for research proposal

#### Quiz:

- Sunday April 11, Chapters 13 & 14



## Module 7: Using Research in Practice

### Week 13: Edit & Revise Proposal

April 12-18

**NO Virtual Class Meeting:** Virtual Office for Questions or Help

#### Read & Review:

- Chapter 15 Real World Research (assigned text)
- Chapter 16 Reporting Research (assigned text)
- Handout: Sample Research Proposal Paper
- Handout: Sample Research Paper Abstract
- PowerPoint Slides

#### Assignment:

- Edit and revise your research proposal due next week. Remember to incorporate all edits from feedback you received on Exercises 1-4 and final draft proposal.

#### Quiz:

- Sunday April 18, Chapters 15 & 16

### Week 14: Edit & Revise Proposal

April 19-25

**NO Virtual Class Meeting:** Virtual Office for Questions or Help

#### Assignments:

- Wednesday April 21, Final Research Study Proposal Papers
- Sunday April 25, slide presentation of your research proposal

## Module 8: Research Study Proposals

### Week 15: Research Study Proposals

April 26-May 2

**Virtual Class Meeting – Presentations of Proposals:** Monday April 26, 2-3pm

**Assignments:**

- Monday April 26, Proposal Presentations (order of presentations TBD) - In Virtual Class

**Quiz:**

- Sunday May 2, Cumulative Reading Quiz over all chapters in our textbook

### Week 16: Research Study Proposals

May 3-7

**Virtual Class Meeting: Presentations of Proposals:** Monday May 3, 2-3pm

**Assignments:**

- Monday May 3, Proposal Presentations – In Virtual Class
- Complete Course Evaluations – Thank you!