

Syllabus for
SWK 499--Senior Research Paper
3 Credit hours
Spring 2016

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The capstone course in the social work professional degree plan. Working from a research proposal developed in SWK 302, the student completes a comprehensive written analysis of an issue/topic relevant to the social work profession and the student's personal practice goals.

Prerequisites: MAT 232 Elementary Statistics, SWK 302 Research Method, and senior standing
Computer use fee: \$45

II. COURSE GOAL

The primary goal of this course is the completion of a quality senior paper within a structured span of time.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

A. Terminal Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- a. Distinguish, appraise, and integrate appropriate data/information from a variety of sources (e.g. the library, the internet, social service agencies/professionals).
- b. Apply generalist social work knowledge to critical examination of professional sources relevant to the completion of their Senior Paper.
- c. Demonstrate a practical knowledge of research methods relevant for generalist social work practice.
- d. Demonstrate a recognition of the effects of cultural/ethnic diversity to the issues related to their specific topic.
- e. Understand the potential forms and mechanisms of oppression and discrimination and advocate for social and economic justice where appropriate.
- f. Demonstrate how a Christian World View and Professional SWK values and ethics relate to the topic.
- g. Demonstrate an understanding of how the various contexts influence the topic (i.e., Microsystem to Macrosystem influences).
- h. Demonstrate an understanding of how developmental stages might impact the topic.
- i. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in the development of a comprehensive, cohesive, and professionally written product.
- j. Demonstrate adequate writing skills that conform to the standards of the current edition of the *APA Publication Manual*.

B. Unit Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following: Complete a comprehensive written analysis of an area of social work concern.

C. Social Work Program Competencies

By completing this course, students will have the opportunity to successfully engage self in the following CSWE and ORU Social Work Program Competencies.

1. Competency 1; Professional Identity
2. Competency 2; Ethical Principles
3. Competency 3; Critical Thinking
4. Competency 4; Diversity
5. Competency 5; Human Rights and Justice
6. Competency 6; Research
7. Competency 7; HBSE
8. Competency 8; Policy Practice
9. Competency 9; Practice Contexts
10. Competency 11: Spiritual Integration

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Materials

Textbooks

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. (ISBN: 9781433805615)

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures for submitting artifacts can be found in the General Education Whole Person Assessment Handbook and the departmental handbook for the student's major.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

- a. The student's evaluation are based on the following:

(1) Problem Conceptualization	100 Points
(2) Problem Analysis	100
(3) Service Delivery Analysis	100
(4) Conclusions/Recommendations	100
(5) Complete 1 st Draft	100
(6) Complete Final Draft	50
Total Points	550 Points
- b. The following grade scale applies:

A = 495 -- 550 Points

B = 440 -- 494.5

C = 385 -- 439 .5

D = 330 -- 384.5

F = 000 -- 329.5
- c. Due Dates
 - (1) All assignments are due on Fridays, at the beginning of class.
 - (2) Assignments turned in after the due date are penalized at the rate of 10 percent per late day.
- d. Final Draft of the Sr. Research Paper will be submitted to e-portfolio, on the same due date as the Final Draft.

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

- a. Final Draft of the Sr. Research Paper will be submitted to ePortfolio on the same due date as the Final Draft
- b. Artifacts not submitted electronically or incorrectly submitted receive a zero for that assignment.

3. Other Information

- a. Course Structure--All students doing senior research papers work with the professor within the context of a small group. This work includes regular Friday sessions during scheduled class time. This time is spent for supervision, discussion, and peer support.
- b. Written Assignments

- (1) Annotated Reference List – A minimum of 25 potential sources are listed, with a brief description of each, and typed with appropriate APA reference format.
 - (2) Problem Conceptualization – establishes a theoretical foundation for defining the issue, introduces relevant systems, lists research questions, and defines professional jargon terms.
 - (3) Problem Analysis – presents a comprehensive historical context, discusses all significant systems in a comprehensive manner, discusses diversity issues relevant to the topic, and presents specific examples of current research results.
 - (4) Service Delivery Analysis – comprehensively analyzes examples of specific agencies/programs that represent a cross-section of services being provided to address the issue.
 - (5) Conclusions & Recommendations – summarizes key points from all previous sections, identifies what is currently successful in addressing the issue and where the gaps are, and presents concrete recommendations for improvements.
 - (6) First Complete Draft – This is the first draft of an integrated senior paper that includes all of the following sections: Title page, Abstract, Table of Contents, Introduction, Problem Analysis, Service Delivery Analysis, Conclusions and Recommendations, References, and Appendices.
 - (7) Complete Final Draft – The final draft must be soft-bound (not spiral bound) by a professional copy center. No erasable bond paper is allowed; a nice heavyweight paper must be used. At this time, the student turns in the final draft, the graded first draft, and an additional copy of the final draft to be graded and returned to the student. (Note-- The final draft is the permanent property of the Social Work Program at ORU.)
- c. Examinations--There are no exams for this course.
 - d. Pop Quizzes--There are no quizzes for this course.
 - e. Computer Assignments: Students will use class time to complete assigned "Practice Exercises" found in the *How to Use SPSS* text.
 - f. Cheating/Plagiarism
 - (1) Students suspected of cheating receive no points for that exam or quiz with no opportunity for a makeup. Additionally, they face possible disciplinary action by the University.
 - (2) Any student suspected of plagiarism receives no points for that written assignment with no opportunity for a makeup. Additionally, he or she faces possible disciplinary action by the University.
 - (3) All appeals to the contrary must be typed and copies submitted to the chairperson of the department and to the instructor.
 - f. Changes--any changes in syllabi are announced in class by the instructor and are considered to constitute adequate and sufficient notice. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any such changes, and to contact the instructor if he or she is unsure of what is expected.
 - g. Office Hours--Office hours are posted on the instructor's door and announced in class. If the student cannot make the posted hours, that student should see the instructor after class or leave a message on voice mail with contact times. An appointment can be arranged.
 - h. Students are expected to attend classes and to participate in class activities and discussion.

- i. It is understood that the occasional absence is unavoidable; therefore, students will be allowed 2 unexcused absences without any penalties. Any absences beyond 2 is penalized at the rate of 5 points per absence.
- j. Three tardies are treated as one unexcused absence.
- k. An excused absence consists of administration excuses for required University activities or written verification of the student's inability to attend class and/or complete assignments provided by a physician, counselor, or pastor. This written verification by a professional must include his/her rationale for the absence and/or inability to complete assignments.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week 3	Problem Conceptualization Due
Week 6	Problem Analysis Due
Week 8	Service Delivery Analysis Due
Week 10	Conclusions & Recommendations Due
Week 12	Complete First Draft Due
Week 13	Complete Final Draft Due (plus e-portfolio submission)

Note: For the student who has the occasional opportunity to do an actual research project for their Sr. Paper, a revised syllabus will be made available.

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

SWK 499: Senior Research Paper Fall 2016

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge		X		
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			X	
1C	Evangelistic capability			X	
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation		X		
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle			X	
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle			X	
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills			X	
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences		X		
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity				X

(Revised 1/15/04)