



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

SOWK 5370: Social Work Research

CRN: 12721

Term: Fall 2022

Meeting Times: Tuesday 12:00pm – 2:50pm

Classroom Location: Undergraduate Learning Center 334

CRN: 15915

Term: Fall 2022

Meeting Times: Tuesday 3:00pm – 5:50pm

Classroom Location: Undergraduate Learning Center 334

Professor: Yok-Fong Paat, PhD, LCSW

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Phone: 915-747-5789

Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment

Office: Health Sciences and Nursing Building HSSN 427

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This graduate level course is designed to provide students with a theoretical base and practical knowledge of scientific research inquiries and methods. Specifically, students will be introduced to the study of social research as applied to social work practice. We will cover 6 modules of research frameworks/designs and methodological procedures throughout the semester. Additionally, we will discuss various factors relevant to the research process with an emphasis on the issues of cultural diversity and social work competence.

COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are to help students: 1) develop an understanding of foundational knowledge of social research principles and processes, 2) make meaningful conceptual connections between ecological contexts and social work research, 3) integrate evidence-based research into a coherent picture for culturally competent social work practice, 4) build critical thinking skills for analyzing phases and issues involved in problem formulation and measurement, and 5) use research practice to assess the needs of socially marginalized populations and create a positive social change in the field.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

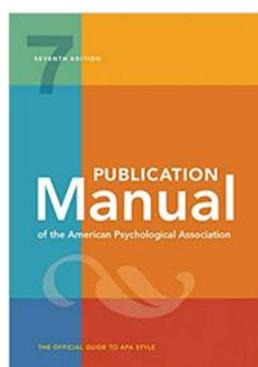
- Demonstrate a competent understanding of empirically based research and ethical conduct of research.
- Apply critical thinking skills in assessing, appraising, and critiquing social research

quality and literature.

- Develop an appreciation for scientific inquiry in social work.
- Identify and describe the utility of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods in social work research practice.
- Make a meaningful connection between ideologies and paradigms from the research perspective.
- Articulate the roles of social work research in promoting social justice and enhancing human functioning/human rights.

Competencies	Assignment(s)
1: Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior	Classroom discussions, exams, papers, paper presentation
2: Advance human rights and social, racial, economic, and environmental justice	Classroom discussions, exams, papers, paper presentation
3: Engage anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion (A DEI) in practice	Classroom discussions, exams, papers, paper presentation
4: Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice	Classroom discussions, exams, research journals, papers, paper presentation
5: Engage in policy practice	Classroom discussions, exams, papers, paper presentation
6: Engage with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities	Classroom discussions, exams, papers, paper presentation
7: Assess individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities	Classroom discussions, exams, research journals, papers, paper presentation
8: Intervene with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities	Classroom discussions, exams, research journals, papers, paper presentation
9: Evaluate practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.	Classroom discussions, exams, research journals, papers, paper presentation

REQUIRED MATERIALS



Yegidis, B. L., Weinbach, R. W., & Myers, L. L. (2018). *Research methods for social workers* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0134512563

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN-13: 978-1433832154

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

In order to satisfy the course requirements, students will be expected to participate in classroom assignments/activities and complete 3 exams, 5 research journals, 2 application papers, and 1 class presentation.

Classroom Participation (22.5 %):

Classroom participation in this course entails classroom attendance, and synchronous and asynchronous activities (i.e., online discussion on Blackboard Discussion Board and weekly assignments). Students are responsible for their course participation throughout the course. Failure to abide by the course policy can jeopardize academic standing.

Exams (40.0%): There will be 3 exams to test the students' understanding of the course content. Exam questions will be drawn from course readings as well as class lectures or discussions. Only under extenuating circumstances will a make-up exam be permitted. See also policies pertaining to course attendance.

Research Journals (7.5%): Students are required to keep a number of research journals in which they critically assess their understanding of a number of empirically based research articles from social work and/or other scholarly journals of their interest. To receive full credit of their work, students must submit a minimum of 5 entries and attach an empirical article with each entry in their submission.

Application Papers (25%): Throughout the semester, students are required to submit two application papers to help them integrate and apply their understanding of the course content and research concepts as applied to social work research practice.

Presentation (5.0%): Students will have the opportunity to present one of their papers for credit. Students who are scheduled to present their work must come to class on time.

Extra Credit Assignments: A number of assignments will be offered in which students will be provided with the opportunity to earn extra credits throughout the course.

Final Grade Calculations:

Assignment	Point value for each assignment	Total points	Weight in course (percent)
Class Participation	90	90	22.5

Exam*3	50 for Exam 1 50 for Exam 2 60 for Exam 3	160	40.0
Research Journal*5	6	30	7.5
Application Paper *2	50	100	25.0
Presentation*1	20	20	5.0
		Total	100.0

Grading Scale:

The following grading scale is used for this course:

- A: 90-100 % (360-400 points)
- B: 80-89.99 % (320-359 points)
- C: 70-79.99 % (280-319 points)
- D: 60-69.99 % (240-279 points)
- F: 59.99 % or lower (239 points or lower)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Student will need access to a computer with internet capability to connect with the UTEP Blackboard website and other assigned readings posted periodically. Completion of some assignments may require proficiency in Microsoft Word, Power Point, and Adobe Acrobat. All papers unless otherwise noted must be submitted to SafeAssign on Blackboard for originality check. Failure to do so in time will result in a grade of zero (if students choose not to submit their papers to Blackboard) or a deduction of 5 points (after the submission is complete). Submission to Blackboard must be completed within 24 hours upon discussing their failure to do so (e.g., students forgot to submit their work to Blackboard on time, students encountered problems with the online submission) with the instructor.

PAPER/ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

All typed assignments must use double-spaced 12-point Times New Roman. Additionally, all margins must be set to 1 inch. All cited works must also follow the APA (American Psychological Association) formatting and citation guidelines. Please see APA Publication Manual for examples. Failure to comply can result in a lower grade.

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE UP WORK

Regular attendance in class is necessary to do well in the course. Class participation is encouraged, and students are advised to be respectful to the instructor and their classmates. Discussion should be directed to the entire class instead of classmates. Students are required to keep up with their weekly readings. All assigned readings are to be completed prior to the start of each class. In addition to the readings in the textbook, it is the students' responsibility to complete any additional readings posted on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.utep.edu>).

Students may not receive credit for their assignments or exams if they are late for the class or

after the instructor has collected the exams or any assignments from other students. Only students with valid and documented excuses are allowed to submit missed assignments/papers or take a make-up exam. No make-up points will be given for presentation or classroom participation for the day if the students miss the class. Students who miss more than three classes risk being withdrawn from class with a grade of W if absences occur prior to the university's drop deadline, or an F if absences occur after the deadline. Students wishing to drop a course and receive a grade of W must do so prior to the university's drop deadline. Dropping a course after that time will result in an automatic grade of F, unless there are documented and extenuating circumstances.

COMMUNICATION

Email is the best way to reach the instructor. Phone calls are only for emergencies. Students are expected to check their email for university announcements or information from the instructor. Additional announcements will be posted on Blackboard periodically.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

“UTEP expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution; to observe national, state, and local laws and University regulations; and to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Any disruptive behavior that interrupts faculty's ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn could lead to deductions in participation points, removal from the classroom and reporting the behavior to the Dean of Students” HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.” (Source: Department of Social Work, The University of Texas at El Paso)

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

“The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services, and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them cass@utep.edu or apply for accommodation online via [CASS portal](#)” (Source: The University of Texas at El Paso).

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

“Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can

work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.” (Source: The University of Texas at El Paso).

TITLE IX STATEMENT

“Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance. Sexual harassment of students, which includes acts of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol. An individual also may be unable to give consent due to an intellectual or other disability. A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion, stalking, and relationship violence. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of sexual harassment covered under Title IX.

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, UTEP does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the operation of its educational programs and activities. This commitment to non-discrimination applies to both employment in and admission to such programs and activities. [Link to full text at <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=68750>]

Inquiries regarding Title IX should be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator(s) in the following link: <https://www.utep.edu/titleix/Title-IX-Coordiators.html>” (Source: The University of Texas at El Paso)

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

“Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operation Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones’ own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#)” (Source: Department of Social Work, The University of Texas at El Paso)._

“UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [https://www.utep.edu/library/UTEP Library](https://www.utep.edu/library/UTEP%20Library): Access a wide range of resources including online full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- [Center Against Sexual and Family Violence \(CASFV\)](#): **915-593-7300 or 1-800-727-0511**
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#). Provides food and support for students and staff who are experiencing food insecurity.
- [Foster Homeless Adopted Resources](#). Connects foster, homeless, and adopted individuals through education and advocacy with resources that will assist holistically with UTEP experience.
- For crimes, contact the El Paso Police Department or UTEP Police Department (**915-747-5611**)
- For suspected abuse of children or older persons, Child/Adult Protective Services **1-800-252-5400**
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**.
- Respect Is (Dating Abuse Prevention) at loveisrespect.org
- Mental Health Crisis Line **915-779-1800**
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline **1-800-273-8255**
- Veterans Crisis Line **1-800-273-8255**
- NAMI of El Paso (National Alliance Against Mental Illness) hosts free weekly support groups for people with mental illness and their families. elpaso.nami@dshs.state.tx.us or **915-534-5478**”

(Source: Department of Social Work, The University of Texas at El Paso).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week/Class	Assigned Readings & Course Outline	Topics and/or Assignments	Course Competencies
<u>Week 1:</u> (08/23)	Yegidis et al. Ch. 1	Module 1: An Introduction to Social Work Research	C1, C3
<u>Week 2:</u> (08/30) Online	Yegidis et al. Ch. 1	Module 1 cont.	C1, C3
<u>Week 3:</u> (09/06)	Yegidis et al. Ch. 1	Module 1 cont.	C1, C3
<u>Week 4:</u> (09/13) Online	Yegidis et al. Ch. 1	Module 1 cont.	C1, C3
<u>Week 5:</u> (09/20)	Yegidis et al. Ch. 2	Module 2: Social Work Research Ethics Exam 1	C1, C2, C3, C4, C5
<u>Week 6:</u> (09/27) Online	Yegidis et al. Ch. 2	Module 2 cont.	C1, C2, C3, C4, C5
<u>Week 7:</u> (10/04)	Yegidis et al. Ch. 3, 4, 9 10 & 12	Module 3: Problem Formulation	C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7, C8, C9
<u>Week 8:</u> (10/11) Online	Yegidis et al. Ch. 3, 4, 9 10 & 12	Module 3 cont.	C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7, C8, C9
<u>Week 9:</u> (10/18)	Yegidis et al. Ch. 3, 4, 9 10 & 12	Module 3 cont.	C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7, C8, C9

<u>Week 10:</u> (10/25) Online	Yegidis et al. Ch. 3, 4, 9 10 & 12	Module 3 cont.	C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7, C8, C9
<u>Week 11:</u> (11/01)		Exam 2, Presentation, 1st paper due	C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7, C8, C9
<u>Week 12:</u> (11/08) Online	Yegidis et al. Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8, & 11	Module 4: Data Collection Methods	C4, C7
<u>Week 13:</u> (11/15)	Yegidis et al. Ch. 13 & 14	Module 5: Analysis of Data Research Journals due	C1, C4, C5
<u>Week 14:</u> (11/22) Online	Yegidis et al. Ch. 14	Module 6: Reading and Writing Social Research	C1, C4, C5, C7
<u>Week 15:</u> (11/29)		Exam 3, Presentation, 2nd paper due	C1, C4, C5, C7