Western New Mexico University
Syllabus for
Applied Social Work Research
SWK 640 CRN 21880

Professor: Dr. Beth Walker
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Office Hours: 9:30 – 11 and 2 – 3:30, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; other times by appointment

Course Catalog Description: Teaches skills for evaluation of social work practice across client system levels within the rural practice context; provides historical and value context for practice evaluations. Focuses on evaluation of social programs and one’s own professional social work practice.

Course Goals
1. To prepare students for effective, professional generalist social work policy and practice in rural settings with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
2. Prepare students with a broad liberal arts foundation that emphasizes development of critical thinking skills and a liberal arts perspective.
3. Prepare students to conduct themselves ethically and engage in ethical decision making in order to ensure human rights and social and economic justice.
4. Prepare students to engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research to assess, intervene, and evaluate.

Course Objectives: On completion of this course, through course readings, assignments, and/or exams students will be able to
1. Students will demonstrate competence in determining the interventions best suited for a client issue, based on the evidence available. (EP: 2.1.6)
2. Students will have competency in formulating questions regarding the issue(s) that brought a client into treatment. (EP: 2.1.6)
3. Students will have the ability to competently search for articles and reviews of interventions that are relevant to the issue(s) that brought a client into treatment, and to appraise these articles and reviews for their relevancy to the client’s issue(s). (EP: 2.1.6)
4. Students will be able to select and implement the best intervention for their client based on the evidence. (EP: 2.1.6)
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to monitor a client’s progress after the intervention chosen has been implemented. (EP: 2.1.6)

Required Texts:
The Council of Social Work Education upholds that all social work education should include the core competencies. Each of the core competencies encompasses individual necessary knowledge, values, skills, and operational practice behaviors. Each student should be familiar with these core competencies, and be able to demonstrate knowledge of them at the completion of this course. Please visit CSWSE.org to find them identified. In this course, we focus primarily on 2.1.6

Research Based Practice

2.1.6 Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research.

Necessary Knowledge, Values, & Skills

- Social workers use practice experience to inform research, employ evidence-based interventions, evaluate their own practice, and use research findings to improve practice, policy, and social service delivery.
- Social workers comprehend quantitative and qualitative research and understand scientific and ethical approaches to building knowledge.

Advanced Operational Practice Behaviors developed by WNMU Social Work Program

a) Work collaboratively with communities and across disciplines to design, implement, and interpret social work policy research.
b) Integrate qualitative and quantitative research to inform policy practice.

Course Expectations and WNMU Policies for Students

Attendance:
Attendance in an online class is evaluated by your attention to the material. You will get out of the course what you put into the course. You will need to be a self-starter and control your own calendar in order to meet the deadlines for the course.

Canvas Down Time and Inclement Weather:
Due to the possibility of Canvas down time or lack of connection due to inclement weather, it is important that you not wait until the last minute to finish assignments, postings, or assessments.

Posting Assignments and Discussions:
Students are responsible for posting all discussions on the Discussion Board and all assignments to the Assignments posting area. If you are having difficulty with this, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor so that s/he can get you the assistance you need to learn how to do this, or contact tech support through Canvas (number on the Canvas shell).

Participation in an online course is measured through weekly tasks and online discussions (this takes the place of actual face to face class meetings). In your weekly discussion postings, you need to make sure that you write at least two paragraphs/8 complete sentences for each discussion prompt and this is due on Wednesdays by 12 midnight MST. You may need to write more in order to thoroughly answer the questions. In addition to responding to each discussion yourself, you are required to respond to one of your classmate’s discussion postings. These responses should also be at least two paragraphs/8 complete sentences. The response to classmate is due on Sundays by 12 midnight MST. Please remember to be respectful of one another in your online discussions. Review the rubric for details about what to be sure to include in your posts.

This is a compressed class, with a significant amount of work. Please make careful note of due dates for postings, both discussions and assignments, and submit accordingly.
Informed Consent:
Some individuals may choose to disclose personal information during class. Therefore, it is important that all classmates agree not to discuss or write about what others have discussed in class.

Professionalism:
Students are learning professional skills and are expected to engage in class discussions, complete reading assignments, and meet deadlines as befits professional behavior.

Scholarly Writing:
Use clear college-level writing with correct spelling and grammar for all assignments. If you need help with your writing consult a Smarthinking writing tutor at http://www.wnmu.edu/univ/smarthinkins.shtml. Also helpful is OWL @ Purdue.

The ability to write clearly and precisely is essential in social work. Assignments must be written in standard, correct English. Written assignments containing incomplete sentences or other serious errors in grammar and/or spelling will not meet assignment requirements. They will be graded accordingly. Proofread your papers and use the spell check function. If you have difficulty with written English, you may wish to consult a tutor in the Writing Center. Other social work students have found these very helpful.

All assignments and papers must follow the format of The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) including the use of headings/subheadings, reference list, and title page as a guide for writing and citing sources.

The following criteria will be used for all graded assignments:
• Quality and clarity of writing and organization.
• Comprehensiveness.
• The extent to which course concepts, discussion and readings are reflected in the writing.
• Submission of assignments on the dates specified within the guidelines provided.

There are online resources available to help you with APA citation style including a student manual at the Smarthinking tutor website and the Purdue Online Writing Lab https://owl.english.purdue.edu/

Communications policy statement regarding official e-mail:
WNMUs policy requires that all official communication with the University, other than your in-class Canvas communications, be sent via Mustang Express. Emails sent to you by various WNMU departments related to your registration, financial account balance, changes in schedule, etc., will be sent to your wnmu.edu email address. It is very important that you access your Mustang Express email periodically to check for correspondence from the University.

WNMU policy on email passwords:
WNMU requires that passwords for access to all protected software, programs, and applications be robust, including complexity in the number of characters required, the combination of characters required, and the frequency in which passwords are required to be changed. Minimum complexity includes:

• Passwords shall contain at least six (6) characters
• Passwords shall contain at least one capital (upper case) letter, and at least one numeral.
• Passwords shall be changed at least every 90 days
**Academic Integrity:**
Each student shall observe standards of honesty and integrity in academic work as defined in the WNMU catalog. Violations of academic integrity include any behavior that misrepresents or falsifies a student’s knowledge, skills or ability with the goal of unjustified or illegitimate evaluation or gain.

Generally violations of academic integrity include cheating and plagiarism. Refer to the WNMU catalog for definitions. Penalties for infractions are as follows:

For **Plagiarism**: Intentional or unintentional representation of another’s work as one’s own without proper acknowledgement of the original author or creator of the work:
- 1st infraction: Grade of 0 for assignment
- 2nd infraction: Grade of 0 for assignment; referral to the Social Work Student Performance Committee.
- 3rd infraction: Dismissal from the class with grade of F; referral to the Social Work Student Performance Review Committee with a recommendation for dismissal from the MSW program or to the WNMU Academic Integrity Committee for possible University level sanction.

*instructor’s note: per the WNMU Academic Integrity Policy – plagiarism includes the use of one’s own work completed prior to or simultaneously with the current course and turned in for credit in more than one class without the express permission of the instructor(s); while citing one’s own work is acceptable, using the same work twice constitutes plagiarism.

For **Cheating**: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials and unauthorized collaboration with others, copying the work of another or any action that presents the work of others to misrepresent the student’s knowledge:
- 1st infraction: Dismissal from class with grade of F.

**Integrated Use of Technology:**
You will be using Canvas to post discussions, post assignments, and take all quizzes and exams. You will need to learn how to attach and submit documents if you don’t already know how to do this.

**Disability Support Services:**
Services for students with disabilities are provided through the Student Health Center’s Disability Support Services office. Some examples of the assistance provided are audio materials for the blind or dyslexic, note takers, readers, audio recorders, and special tutors. In order to qualify for these services, documentation must be provided by certified health care professionals. Disability Support Services information and forms are available by calling 575.538.6014 or emailing dss@wnmu.edu. The Disability Support Services office serves as Western New Mexico University's liaison for students with disabilities.

**Need Help?**

- Post your question to the Discussion Board in your online course.
- Send a question via Canvas email to your instructor.
- For 24/7 Canvas Help call: **888.332.6994**
- Contact the WNMU Help Desk at helpdesk@wnmu.edu or **575.574.4357**.
- Register for **IPS 010, Canvas Orientation**. This is a short, free, non-credit introduction to Canvas; no textbook is required. Once you complete the orientation activities, you can re-enter the course at any time during the semester to get additional help from the instructor as needed.
- Consult **Student Online Resources** at [http://learn.wnmu.edu/support/resstu.shtml](http://learn.wnmu.edu/support/resstu.shtml) for an online readiness assessment, Technical Requirements, Canvas tutorials and Canvas Student Guide.
Course Access: Access to online course materials will be available to students between the start and end dates listed in the class schedule.

Copyright: The materials found in this course are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained by students in any electronic form or further disseminated or distributed to anyone not enrolled in this course.

Program Fees: Courses offered by the School of Social Work at WNMU are assessed a Program Fee of $10 per credit hour. These fees were originally developed with extensive input from students and are used to support the sustainability of the programs offered by the WNMU School of Social Work. The fees collected are used within the program in various ways, including but not limited to the following: Evaluation of potential course materials, travel to extended campus locations and field practicum locations, conferences, supplies, equipment, and program promotion. Any student having questions about the fees assessed by the School of Social Work can contact Dr. Beth Walker, Chair.

TK20 Fee: WNMU has purchased the Tk20 HigherEd Comprehensive software system, which provides a rich set of assessment data management tools to help track and enhance our students’ growth, as well as make our assessment and accountability tasks more practical. Students are being assessed a one-time fee of $100 for inclusion in the TK20 HigherEd Comprehensive software system. Trained faculty and staff will enter key assessment data and evaluations. Students in several courses will use Tk20 to submit assignments as well as submit surveys and/or course evaluations. As time goes on, more and more programs on campus will conduct assessments within Tk20. Any student having questions about the TK20 fee can contact Dr. Beth Walker, Chair.

Assessment/Evaluation and Grading Scale:

This course has a total points available of 900. They come from the following: 200 for the Signature Assignment, 375 from the Discussions, 320 from the Assignments, and 5 for the Introduction.

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A &= 90-100 \\
B &= 80-89 \\
C &= 70-79 \\
D &= 60-69 \\
F &= 59 \text{ or less}
\end{align*}
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Late Work: Late work is **not** accepted. This is a matter of professional behavior. Please plan accordingly.

A grade of C or below requires retaking this class, with no exceptions.

Overview of Assignments

**Signature Assignments** are those assignments chosen by the WNMU School of Social Work faculty to evaluate a student’s ability to demonstrate the CSWE-mandated core competencies and related practice behaviors. In addition to measuring student competency, the assignments are used as indicators of program efficacy. Signature assignments are clearly identified in all School of Social Work syllabi. Students must demonstrate competency in order to pass each course. Students must complete all signature assignments throughout their program of study. Failure to complete a signature assignment in any course will result in automatic failure of the course, and will result in a referral to the Social Work Student Performance Review Committee for possible re-evaluation of School of Social Work admission.
Be sure to examine the rubric (on Canvas) and detailed directions (below and/or Canvas) for each assignment before you begin writing so that you are clear about the expectations and grading criteria for the assignment.

Signature Assignment SWK 640: Applied Research in Practice Paper

**EPAS 2.1.6 Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research (PB a, b)**

This paper is a sort of compilation of your work all semester. Please follow the rubric, and be absolutely sure that it is in compliance with APA 6th Edition format using Times New Roman 12 point font.

1. **Introduction.** Introduce your paper and what your paper will consist of. Limit to one paragraph.

2. **Section 1: Question Formulation.** Based on the issues that your client states are bringing him or her to seek help, choose the issue you (and, hypothetically, your client) feel is the most important for intervention and discuss. Formulate a question for the client’s intervention.

3. **Section 2: Evidence Search.** Based on the question you formulated, what search terms did you use? What search engine did you use for your search? How many entries did you find? How many entries were relevant to your search for your client?

4. **Section 3: Critically Appraising Studies & Reviews.** Using 6 to 10 reviews or articles, critique the interventions that are relevant for your client’s issue. The critiques should be brief, about 3-4 sentences each.

5. **Section 4: Selecting & Implementing the Intervention.** Which intervention did you choose for you client and why was this intervention chosen? Why is it the best fit for your client?

6. **Section 5: Measurable Treatment Goals.** Based on the hypothetical discussion with your client, what measurable treatment goals will best monitor your client’s progress? How were these treatment goals chosen? There should be at least three treatment goals.

7. **Conclusion.** Summarize the intervention chosen and why in summary fashion. Limit to one paragraph. Attach Intake form.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:** *SEE CANVAS for WEEKLY DISCUSSION DETAILS and DUE DATES*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Reading</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| 1, ending 3/26 | **Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice** (EP: 2.1.6)  
- Read Syllabus.  
- Read Chapter 1 |  
- Introduction due  
- Discussion 1 due  
Both must be posted by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m. *(ALL DUE DATES/TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME.)* |
| | **Steps in the EPB Process** (EP: 2.1.6)  
- Read Chapter 2 |  
- Discussion 2  
Must be posted by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. |
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<tr>
<th>Week ending</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>2, ending 4/2</td>
<td><strong>Research Hierarchies (EP: 2.1.6)</strong></td>
<td>• Read Chapter 3 • Discussion 3 Must be posted by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Criteria for Inferring Effectiveness (EP: 2.1.6)</td>
<td>• Read Chapter 4 • Assignment 1 (Major content assignment) • Discussion 4 Both must be posted by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>3, ending 4/10</td>
<td><strong>Critically Appraising Qualitative Studies (EP: 2.1.6)</strong></td>
<td>• Read Material posted on Canvas • Assignment 2 Question Formulation Must be posted by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Critically Appraising Experiments (EP: 2.1.6)</td>
<td>• Read Chapters 10 &amp; 15 • Assignment 3 First Reflection Paper on Case Study • Discussion 6 Both must be posted by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>4, ending 4/17</td>
<td><strong>Critically Appraising Experiments (EP: 2.1.6)</strong></td>
<td>• Read Chapter 6 • Discussion 7 • Assignment 4 Intake Form Both must be posted by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Critically Appraising Evidence &amp; Research (EP: 2.1.6)</td>
<td>• Review Text • Discussion 8 • Assignment 5 Draft of Introduction and Evidence Search Both must be posted by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>5, ending 4/24</td>
<td><strong>Critically Appraising Quasi-Experiments: Time Series Designs and Single-Case Designs (EP: 2.1.6)</strong></td>
<td>• Read Chapter 7 • Discussion 9 Both must be posted by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Critically Appraising Systemic Reviews &amp; Meta-Analysis (EP: 2.1.6)</td>
<td>• Discussion 10 • Assignment 6 Both must be posted by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>6, ending 5/1</td>
<td><strong>Critically appraising Studies, continued</strong></td>
<td>Read Ch. 8 • Discussion 11 • Assignment 7 Draft of Critical Appraisal Both must be posted by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Read Ch. 11</td>
<td>• Discussion 12 • Assignment 8 Both must be posted by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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| 7, ending 5/7 | Monitoring Client Progress | • Discussion 13  
• Assignment 9  
Both must be posted by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m. |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|               | **Read Ch. 12**             | • Discussion 14  
Must be posted by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m.  
• **Signature assignment**  
Must be posted by Monday night, May 8, at 11:59 p.m. |