University of Salahaddin- Hawler



College of Arts

Department of Social Work

4th Year, 2018-2019

**Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods in Social Work**

**7.5 ECTS**

**Course book**

**Muslih Irwani, PhD**

**muslih.irwani@gmail.com**

## Introduction:

Research methods can be seen as the bridge allowing to link theoretical considerations and empirical material, sometimes pushing the researcher to downscale her/his ambitions, some others opening up unforeseen avenues for research. Starting from this consideration on the role of methods in social sciences, this course aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the main research methods they are likely to employ when conducting research in social work.

The course is structured to include equally both quantitative and qualitative research methods, focusing respectively on the key debates in the philosophy of social science and on the discussion of the main research methods, and students are asked to think through the methodological components of their end-of-year dissertation.

All reading assignments focus on key issues or themes, and it is of the utmost importance to come to each class prepared to discuss these issues.

**Course objectives:**

The goal of this course is for students to:

1. Develop an understanding of social research as practitioners and consumers of research.
2. Propose and apply appropriate methods in a research project.
3. show ethical awareness in social research.

**Course Outcomes:**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

1. Understand and explain scientific approach and methodological tools of both quantitative and qualitative social research and their applications to social work.
2. Develop research skills necessary to plan and carry out all phases of qualitative research to build knowledge related to the practice of social work.
3. Identify and describe the ethical and values issues related to social research in general and social work research in particular.

**Format and Procedures:**

1. You are expected to attend all lectures.
2. Please be on time and ready to begin class at the prescribed time.
3. Make sure your **Cell** phone(s) is **Turned off**/ **Silent** within the class.
4. You are expected to have read all the assigned readings for each class, and come prepared to engage in discussions on them.
5. There will be unannounced quizzes in class to evaluate your comprehension of the assigned reading material.
6. Use **EXTRA** available resources in the library or any academic reference that helps you to improve your knowledge and understandings.

## Learning Activities

Learning activity involves an active problem-solving mode of work through applying contents of the course literature, lectures and seminars. An internet-based learning platform is used during the course. See also the study guide of the course.

**Course Assignments and Grading**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class Attendance**  | 10% |  |
| **Participation** | 5% | Participation in class discussions and course contributions. |
| **Short Essays**  | 15% | Students should write and present 3 short essays and present them in class (each essay and presentation on 5%). seminars are assigned in every other week throughout the semester for the topics covered in the lecture |
| **Midterm Exam and Quiz** | 10% | One in the midterm (week 6), and one in a day chosen by me. |
| **Final Exam** | 60% | Complete Course Material Exam (essay, short answer, identify, etc.) |

## Course Content

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Weeks** | **Subject**  | **Readings**  |
| Week #1 | Introduction  |  |
| Week #2  | Research Resign and Practise | Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work, Chapter I* |
| Week #3 | Reviewing Literature and Defining the Research Problem | Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work, Chapter II* |
| Week #4 | Interviews | Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work, Chapter III* |
| Week #5 | Focus Groups | Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work, Chapter IV* |
| Week #6 | Questionnaires | Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work, Chapter V* |
| Week #7 | 1. Documentary Analysis
 | Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work, Chapter VI* |
| Week #8 | 1. Data Analysis
 | Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work, Chapter VII* |
| Week #9 | Research Ethics |  |
| Week #10 | Writing and Presentation your Research | Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work, Chapter VIII* |

1. **Educational Resources**
* **Text Book:**

Whittaker, A., 2009. *Research Skills for Social Work*, Glasgow: Learning Matters Ltd.

* **Related References:**
* Bell, J., 2010. *Doing Your Research Project: A guide for first-time researchers*. McGraw-Hill Education.
* Bryman, A., 2012. Social Research Methods. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
* Dawson, C., 2007. A Practical Guide to Research Methods: A User-Friendly Manual for Mastering Research Techniques and Projects, 3rd Edition, Oxford: How to Books.
* Kalof, L., Dan, A. and Dietz, T., 2008. *Essentials of Social Research*, Berkshire: Open University Press.
* Rubin, A. and Babbie, E., 2007. Research Methods for Social Work. Cengage Learning.
* Sarantakos, S., 1993. Social Research. Palgrave Macmillan.
* Walliman, N., 2006. *Social Research Methods*, London: Sage.