Course Title:
Social Work Research Methods I

Course Number:
SWK 5083-102

Course Description:
The course is an introduction to the design and implementation of quantitative and qualitative research methods that are appropriate to social work and human services program evaluation. Prerequisite: graduate standing in social work and an introductory course in statistics.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: October 19-20, & November 2-3, 16-17, and November 30-December 1, 2012
Location: OCCE, Norman, Oklahoma. Classes are held at the Thurman White Forum Building of OCCE, 1704 Asp Avenue.
Hours: Fridays 5:00-9:00 pm, Saturdays 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: October 19, 2012

Site Director:
Cathy Yeaman. Assistant: Jan Plavchak. Phone: 405-325-3333; Fax: 405-325-9148; email: apnorman@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: James A. Rosenthal
Mailing Address: Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work
University of Oklahoma
700 Elm Avenue
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: 405-325-1401
Fax Number: 405-325-4683
E-mail Address: jimar@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment. Students may make appointments for other times as well.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-7140 (outside the U.S.).


4. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance. The “Student Packet for Social Work Research Methods” (henceforth referred to as the “Student Packet”) and selected other materials will be available online on D2L.

5. Access to IBM SPSS Statistics software (Version 19 or 20) is needed. This software is installed at labs on the OU campus and at the School of Social Work. If you obtain it rather than use it at the School’s labs, the most economical way to do so is by renting a student version. The recommended student package is the IBM SPSS Base GradPack 20 for Windows (or for Mac; Version 19 is OK). The 6-month rental license will get you through your two research courses, provided that you don’t load your software until about October 5 (I am reasonably sure but not positive that the 6-month clock begins when the software is installed; you won’t need SPSS until about October 5.) The “onthehub online store” [google “on the hub spss”] has 6 month SPSS licenses, though, almost assuredly, you can find the same elsewhere). The base SPSS package (rather than standard or premium) will suffice for our course.

6. Student Packet for Social Work Research Methods. Course packet (about 200 pages) will be available at King Kopy in Norman. King Kopy is one block west of Jenkins on the north side of Boyd. Phone: (405) 321-0202. [Though this Packet will also be available on the D2L website, students will need a hard-copy of this to do class exercises, and, hence, purchase is highly recommended; coordinate with professor to assure yourself that packet is available when you go to KingKopy]

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**Course Objectives:**

This course introduces graduate students to social science research concepts, tools, and methods and demonstrates their application in social work research and evaluation. It builds an understanding of and appreciation for evidenced-based practice, practice guided by ongoing evaluation with valid tools. Students will understand the importance of evidence-based knowledge both for providing effective services to client systems and for developing the profession of social work. The course develops sensitivity to ethical issues in research and to the conduct of research with populations-at-risk. Key areas of inquiry include: principles of scientific inquiry, quantitative and qualitative approaches, measurement, evidenced-based practice, sampling, survey, research design, and the dissemination of research findings.

Given regular class attendance, participation in class activities, completion of assigned readings, and successful completion of course assignments, students will, at the conclusion of the course, have the ability to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the importance of research and evaluation in the history of the profession of social work and in guiding practice and policy;
- demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental concepts of science, in particular that knowledge and ideas are open to inquiry and questioning;
- demonstrate a working knowledge of social science research concepts and methods, both quantitative and qualitative, with particular attention to the kinds of conclusions that can and cannot be drawn;
- demonstrate an understanding of the major ethical issues in research including cultural competency and carry out research that meets ethical standards;
- apply theory and critically-based reasoning and sound skills in literature review in the formulation of research questions;
• conduct a review of literature that includes use of electronic data bases;
• evaluate the reliability and validity of measuring instruments and use different types of measuring instruments relevant to social work practice;
• design and implement basic probability and non-probability sampling strategies;
• demonstrate an understanding of basic group, single case, survey, and qualitative research designs; and, be able to be implement straightforward designs of these types;
• develop questionnaires and carry out structured and semi-structured research interviews;
• identify evidenced-based interventions and integrate these into social work practice; and
• integrate research methods into practice and use practice to generate research questions

**Major Course Division:**

**A. Key Concepts in Science and Research**
- Inductive and deductive reasoning
- Conceptualization and operationalization
- Quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Principles of science (knowledge is subject to falsification)

**B. Evidenced-based Practice**
- Guiding concepts
- Evidenced-based web sites
- Integrating research and practice

**C. Ethics and Protection of Human Subjects**
- Informed consent
- Voluntary participation
- Risks and benefits
- Confidentiality
- Institutional review boards
- NASW code of ethics and research

**D. Developing a Research Proposal**
- Research questions
- Literature Review including electronic resources
- Sections of a proposal

**E. Measurement**
- Reliability and validity
- Types of Measures (scales, observations, logs)
- Measurement and social work practice

**F. Sampling**
- Underlying concepts
- Confidence intervals and sampling error
- Probability samples: types of and advantages of
- Nonprobability samples: types of and limitations of

**G. Survey and Interview**
- Structured surveys and questionnaires
- Interviews including differing degrees of structure
- Methods of delivery: mail, in person, online

**H. Experimental Designs**
- Randomized designs
- Quasi-experiments
- Internal validity and external validity

**I. Single Case Designs**
- Types of
- Integration into practice
### Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings*</th>
<th>Exam and Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri night Oct 19</td>
<td>Intro to course, to evidence-based practice, and to research methods</td>
<td>Chaps 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat morning Oct 20</td>
<td>More introductory research concepts Literature review Conceptualizing research</td>
<td>Chap 4, Chap 5, Chap 6</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat afternoon Oct 20</td>
<td>Ethics Cultural competency</td>
<td>Chap 16, Chap 17</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri night Nov 2</td>
<td>Statistics Review (focus exclusively on stats material applied in this course)</td>
<td>Chap 1*, Chap 6 (6.1—6.7)* Chap 8 (8.1—8.3, 8.5)* Chapters 10, 11* *Rosenthal text</td>
<td>IRB module Reflective papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat morning Nov 3</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Chaps 7, 8</td>
<td>Ethics article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat afternoon Nov 3</td>
<td>Mid-term review</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri night Nov 16</td>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>Chap 9</td>
<td>On-line survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat morning Nov 17</td>
<td>Sampling</td>
<td>Chap 10</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat afternoon Nov 17</td>
<td>Experiments</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri night Nov 30</td>
<td>Single case designs</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Single-case design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat morning Dec 1</td>
<td>Finish content Test Review</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat afternoon Dec 1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday Dec 3 – 9am</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>High quality rough draft of research project* if want rewrite opportunity *Intro and Methods sections only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday Dec 10 - 9am</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Computer assignments Final Draft of research project paper* *Intro and Methods sections only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Social Work Competencies and Practice Behaviors Assessed:

Upon successful completion of the course students will demonstrate novice ability in the following areas:

**EP 2.1.2 – Competency:**

Associated Behavior:

- Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice.
  - Social workers apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions (Assessed in Assignment #1)
  - Social workers make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in social Work, Statement of Principles (Assessed in Assignment #2)
EP 2.1.3 – Competency: Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.
Associated Behavior:
- Social Workers distinguish, appraise, and integrate multiple sources of knowledge, including research-based knowledge, and practice wisdom (Assessed in Assignment #4);
- Social workers analyze models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation (Assessed in Assignments #4 and 5); and
- Social workers demonstrate effective oral and written communication in working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, and colleagues. (Assessed in Assignment #3).

EP 2.1.6 – Competency: Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research
Associated Behavior:
- Social workers use practice experience to inform scientific inquiry; (Assessed in Assignments #4 and 5); and
- Social workers use research evidence to inform practice (Assessed in Assignments #4 and 5)

EP 2.1.10 – Competency: Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities
Associated Behaviors:
- Assessment - Social workers collect, organize, and interpret client data (Assessed in Assignment #5)
- Evaluation - Social workers critically analyze, monitor, and evaluate interventions. (Assessed in Assignments #4 and 5)

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Teaching/Learning Methods:
- Lecture, group exercises, individual assignments, group assignments, papers, tests

Class Policies:
A. Methods of Evaluation
- Assignments, tests, participation
B. Breakdown of Class Grading
- IRB module (Assignment 1, 5%)
- Ethics Article Assignment (Assignment 2, 15%)
- Online survey assignment (Assignment 3, 10%)
- Reflective papers assignment (Assignment 4, 10%)
- You are a single case design assignment (10%)
- Research Project: Methods and Research Sections (14%)
- Midterm exam (15%)
- Final exam (18%)
- Computer assignments (3%)

Poor attendance and/or participation can move a borderline grade downwards. Excellent participation and attendance can move a borderline grade upwards.

Where the student misses more than a full day of class, professor may request their withdrawal.

Assignments up to 24 hours late lose 5 points. Assignments more than 24 hours late but less than 1 week late lose 10 points. Assignments lose 10 additional points for each additional week late or part of a week late. Assignments are due at the beginning of class session unless otherwise specified. No assignments will be accepted after December 10.
Course Assignments:
Unless otherwise noted, students should turn their papers in MSWord format.

Assignment #1: IRB Module (5%)
Instructions: Students complete the CITI training available online at OU. The student turns in the certificate documenting completion of this training. Grade assigned is the average grade earned on the subtests. Students may complete subtests as many times as desired.
Students will turn in documentation of their scores to the allocated dropbox.
http://irb.ou.edu/training.asp takes you to the Norman Campus IRB Education and Training exercises (CITI)

Assignment #2: Ethics Article Assignment
Instructions: This assignment gives a group of students the opportunity to consider ethical issues in social work practice. Ethical issues related to your social work research study, and the role of an institutional review board as it relates to your individual research project will be delineated and discussed.
Required Readings: The ethics chapter or chapters in the primary text for the course.
1. Each working group will select one article from the Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics that has been published in the past five years. The article should be relevant to your research projects and interests. The journal’s website is: http://www.socialworker.com/jswve/content/view/140/70/
2. As a group, go over the article that your group selects and describe why the issues in the article are important to you as a social work researcher.
3. Finally, prepare and deliver a presentation about the ethical issues discussed in your article. Be sure to address ethical issues raised in the NASW code of ethics.
More information: presentations will be about 10 minutes followed by 5 minute q and a. PowerPoints are encouraged. Presentations should direct attention in particular to implications for social work practice and policy. Your own perspectives on the ethical issues are of interest.

Assignment #3: Online Survey Assignment (10%)
Instructions: Working in a group of about 4 or 5, develop a short questionnaire and administer it online to your fellow classroom members using the Qualtrics online survey tool. Go to oucas.qualtrics.com to register at Qualtrics.
NOTE: an easy way to administer your questionnaire is to put a link in an email that would goes to all class members. Professor can send link through D2L if class does not have a good existing email list.

Your questionnaire should contain the following:
A. A title (brief but informative)
B. A brief informed consent statement with opportunity to check a response to indicate desire to 1) participate in survey or 2) not participate
C. Here are guidelines on questions.
   a. Ten questions minimum (may count multiple questions within a given question format according to number of actual questions: e.g. four questions asked within a matrix format question = 4 questions)
   b. At least two questions should be “multiple choice” format questions.
   c. At least four questions should be “matrix table” questions. (These should all pertain to a single concept that you are measuring).
   d. At least one question should use the “TextEntry” format to create an open-ended response question.
e. At least one question format other than those just listed should be included.

Following development of questionnaire:

A. Administer your questionnaire to fellow class members
B. Use Qualtrics “report” feature to create a briefly summarize selected responses to close-ended questions.
C. Also, use the report feature to pull out key themes in the open-ended questions.
D. Working as a group, report your results to the class.

You should prepare a discussion of about 10 minutes for the class.

Please provide professor with a link to your questionnaire so that he may take.

Extra Credit: In past years, Qualtrics has offered various Webinars. Take a webinar and document your participation to earn an extra credit point towards your final grade.

Extra Credit: Use the SPSS Reliability feature to assess the reliability of your multi-item scale. This requires using Qualtrics to download the data in SPSS format. Next, see page 225 in the Companion Statistics guide and follow the steps outlined. Note: your items must all be coding in the same direction – follow the guides for recoding on page 39 – 47 of Companion Guide to create scale prior to running Reliability. Note: your scale must be measuring a single concept for Reliability to make sense. (Each person in group must do this individually to earn a point. Earn one extra credit point towards final grade.)

Assignment #4: Reflective Papers Assignment (10%)

Rationale: Scientific inquiry in social work education is predicated on the translation of strong behavioral and social sciences research into practice behaviors, skills, intervention models, programs of service and policy. Likewise, the recognition that not all decisions made in the course of social work practice reflect this strong science is also required for the advancement of evidence based practice – often termed practice informed research’.

Instructions: Write two brief (2 page) reflective papers that address the behaviors identified in the ‘Rationale’. See “Criteria for Assignment” below for specific instructions.

As used below, the term “agency” applies to your practicum agency. If you are not currently in practicum but are working in a social services agency, it applies to the setting in which you work. If you are not in practicum and are not working in an agency, or if the agency in which you work does not work well for this assignment, see your instructor for ways to modify it so that it can work for you.

Reflective Paper 1-

The first paper is on an evidenced-based practice skill, intervention model or program (termed ‘practice’ in this assignment) that occurs within your agency. For purposes of this paper, evidenced-based practice is practice supported by solid scientific evidence regarding its effectiveness. Please identify one source of empirical support for this practice and identify one example of its use within your agency. Based on this reading and your observation or involvement in this practice, answer the following questions:

1. What is the nature of the practice – describe it in ‘laypersons’ terms?
2. How is this practice used in your practicum setting?
3. What are the strengths of using this practice?
4. What are some shortcomings of using this practice?
5. How can this practice be improved?
6. Is there an effort to evaluate this practice in your agency and, if so, what is the nature of this evaluation?
7. What ‘information gaps’ or areas of uncertainty exist in the use of this practice that can be addressed by additional research and what, in your opinion, would be the best way to obtain the information to reduce the uncertainty or provide the information that you need?
Reflective Paper 2

The second paper relates to a practice skill, intervention model, or program that occurs within your agency that is based predominantly on practice wisdom. For purposes of this paper, practice based on practice wisdom is defined as practice that is based predominantly on tradition and on life and practice experience. Further, such practice lacks solid scientifically grounded evidence regarding its effectiveness. Identify a practice within your agency that is based predominantly on practice wisdom.

1. What is the nature of the practice – describe it in ‘laypersons’ terms?
2. How is this practice used in your practicum setting?
3. How has this practice come to be used within the setting?
4. What are the strengths of using this practice?
5. What are some shortcomings of using this practice?
6. What information would make you feel more confident in the use of this practice?
7. Why, in your opinion, has this practice not been subjected to scientific inquiry?
8. What, in your opinion, would be the best way to conduct a study to provide some evidence as to its effectiveness?

Criteria for Assignment:
• 2 brief reflective papers (2 pages each)
• APA style format
• Double-spaced and enumerated as provide below
• Cover sheet NOT required
• Name, course number-section number, and date in upper right header of the paper
• Title papers “Reflective Paper 1” and “Reflective Paper 2” respectively

Assignment # 5: The “You are a Single-Case Design” Assignment (15%)

Instructions: Think of some issue/behavior/situation in your own life or in that of someone involved in your life. You might think of something like:
• How relaxed (or stressed out) do you feel?
• How much time you fritter away on Facebook?
• How well are you sleeping?
• Are you spending sufficient time studying (and concentrating while you do so)?
• How many times do you hit the snooze alarm before getting up?
• How much exercise are you getting?
• Are you making time to do things that you enjoy?
• Do your kids (or you) brush your teeth well?
• Do you watch too much TV?
• Do you nag your kids?
• Do you have “quality time” with them?
• How often do you bite your fingernails?
• Is your faithful friend (your dog) getting necessary attention and exercise?
• Clearly the list here goes on and on … and on

Criteria for Assignment:
A. Preparation: Narrow your thinking to something around which you can plan an intervention – something to increase the frequency or intensity of this behavior/issue if it is a positive, or, on the other hand, if it is a negative, something to decrease its frequency or intensity.

Also pick an issue/subject that you feel comfortable about talking about and reporting about to the class.

Your basic tasks will be to:

1) Take several different measurements related to your “issue” across a period of about two weeks, and
2) To implement an intervention that has the potential to affect your selected situation -- this is your single-case design.
3) Create a graph and respond to questions about your measurements and intervention.

B. Measurements: All measurements should measure some aspect of situation or problem. However, they need not all measure the exact same thing. So, one measurement might assess, for instance, your energy level on a given day. Another might assess how intensely you exercised, or, perhaps, how deeply you slept. (Perhaps you are looking at whether exercise (your intervention) affects sleep.)

You will take four different types of measurements. You will take each one on each day. Here are the specific measurements that you will take:

1) Your first measurement will be either a count of the number of times something happens or a measurement of how long something occurs or a measurement of “how much.” Perhaps you count the number of times your dog is gets up on the furniture during the evening (or the amount of time she spends up there). Or perhaps you chart the duration of time during which you read with your child. Or how long you exercise (or the number of hours that you study). A measure of “how much” might be the number of ounces of coffee you consume.

2) Your second measurement will be to construct a scale with “1” at one end and “10” on the other and with “opposites” anchoring each side. For instance, the scale could be used to assess stress level. You would circle the number that best conveyed your stress on, say, a given day.

“cool as a cucumber” 1---2---3---4---5---6---7---8---9---10 “stressed to the max”

3) Your third measurement can be either a multi-item scale that you find in the literature or a scale that you develop. It should be at least 4 items long. It should measure a single concept and should use a common response format. For instance, the short scale below consists of 5 items all of which have to do with soundness of sleep. Note that the same response format (strongly agree … to … strongly disagree) is used for each item in the scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I slept like a log.</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My sleep was as deep as could be.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My sleep was super restful.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I tossed and turned all night.</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I woke up full of energy and ready to take on the day.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will need to score your scale. To do so, you will have to assign points to responses. Let’s say that we want a high total score to indicate restful (rather than restless) sleep. So, we will probably want to assign points as follows: strongly agree = 4, agree = 3, disagree = 2 and strongly disagree = 1. Now let’s suppose your responses on last night’s sleep are recorded in scale (see above). Your scores on the 5 items would be (in the order that the items appear):

\[2 + 1 + 1 + 4 + 1 = 9.\]

But stop. Wait a minute. Agreeing to the fourth item (tossed and turned) conveys restless sleep. We need to “reverse score” this item. In other words for this item: strongly agree = 1 (not 4), agree = 2 (not 3), disagree = 3 (not 2) and strongly disagree = 4 (not 1). So, your score on this item is not 4, but is 1, and your total scale score is:
2 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 6

Now this example used the response format “strongly agree … to … strongly disagree”, but another format might work better for your study: say, “never, occasionally, sometimes, often, always” or, say, “excellent, good, fair, poor”.

4) Your fourth measure is not a measure per se but rather is a client log, a “mini” journal. Basically, for each day you will record perhaps two or three (or more) sentences or observations that get at the unique, particular aspects of each day’s situation. So, say that you are dealing with sleep, you might record for one day:

“Just couldn’t get to sleep. Wish I hadn’t had that darn coffee. Phone rang at 2am. All I can think about is work, work, work – when will I get a break -- awoke with a big headache.”

Hopefully, you didn’t really sleep as in the above – but the key idea is that your log tries to get at the important events that affect what’s going on -- and it can also include your insights and ideas as you go along.

So, that completes your measurements. Remember, you need to **carry out each measurement each day**.

C. Interventions: In addition to taking measurements, you will implement an intervention. Some examples might be: an exercise regimen or no TV after 10 (and perhaps you sleep better), or time to relax to reduce stress. Or a change in diet. Or quality time with kids. Or time set aside to contemplate. Or a behavior mod points system to reward a positive behavior.

You will probably want to begin this intervention **half-way** through your two-week period of measurements. That way, half of your measurements will come before and half will come after.

Now, it may be that rather than implementing your intervention mid-way through the measurement period, you might think that it makes more sense to “stagger” your intervention, in other words to, say: not intervene on day 1, intervene on day 2, not intervene on day 3, intervene on day 4, not intervene on day 5, and …. so on. For instance, you could: not meditate, meditate, not meditate, meditate, and … so on.

At the end of the two week measurement/study period you will:

1) Hand in your measurements to the instructor – the logs may be hand-written; the other measurements should be printed and well organized. Be sure to calculate a multi-item scale score for each day. Recommendation: having all measurements for a given day should be made on a single piece of paper is a straightforward way to proceed.

2) Using Excel or a similar program [e.g. SPSS], create a line graph that traces the key dependent variable in your study (your most important quantitative measurement) across time. Find a way on the graph to indicate the day(s) on which you implemented your intervention.

3) Write a paragraph summarizing the patterns and trends that your line graph conveys. Indicate from visual analysis whether you see relationship between your intervention and trends/patterns on the graph. Do you think your intervention affected the dependent variable that is graphed?

4) Write a paragraph addressing (from your subjective perspective) the reliability and validity of some of your quantitative measures. Which were best from your point of view? Or were all of them flawed? Did you find yourself tempted to fake measurements to make yourself look good? Do you think the fact that your classmates and professors will see your measurements affected your ratings on them? What about “reactivity”? Did the fact of paying so much attention to the
behaviors/issues in question have an effect on either the actual behaviors/issues or on your perceptions of them? If so, were these effects “good” or “bad” ones?

5) Write a paragraph about your log. Was it helpful? Did you gain any insights into the behavior/issue from the log. How could the log be more helpful? Finally, do your writings and reflections in the log concur with your quantitative measures?

6) Write a brief paragraph (two or three sentences) addressing how your study could be improved.

7) Reflect in a brief paragraph about whether you think measurements such as those that you took (perhaps more refined) could be useful to: 1) a client and 2) a social worker working with a client.

Report to the class about your project. You should summarize your project, highlight what was most interesting (perhaps unexpected), and discuss whether any of what you did has relevance for social work practice.

NOTE: you may want to use Qualtrics to record your observations and then download to SPSS to do your graphs. Another alternative is to simply enter your observations/data into SPSS (or Excel).

This assignment will be turned in as hard copy rather than by Drop Box.

Assignment #6: Research Project: Introduction and Methods Sections only

This project is described in detail in separate materials. (Will be in your King Kopy packet and, also, online.)

Computer Assignments: Students will complete computer exercises from the first three chapters of Rosenthal’s SPSS Version 19 Companion Guide to Accompany Statistics and Data Interpretation for Social Work.

Students will need to have access to the IBM SPSS Statistics Software (Version 19 or 20). One way to get this software is simply to use it in the labs at either the School of Social Work (Zarrow Hall, second floor). Please see Texts (V) section of syllabus for more information on the SPSS software.

Students will do all of the exercises in the Companion Guide in Chapters 1 to 3. This includes both the exercises in the chapters per se, as you are guided along through the chapters and also the exercises at the end of the Chapters (Chapter 1 has no end of chapter exercises. Students will turn evidence of their work into the Dropbox.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
Policies and Notices

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

James A. Rosenthal

Education

• 1984 PhD University of Colorado, Educational Research Methodology
• 1977 AM University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, Social Work Research Concentration
• 1971 BA University of Colorado, Psychology and Sociology.

Current Positions

Professor, Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

Social Work Research Methods 1 and 2

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Research Methods, Statistics, Child Welfare

Representative Publications and Presentations


Major Professional Affiliations

National Association of Social Workers
Council on Social Work Education.