I. COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to cover the basics of research methodology and statistics. This course will prepare students to move into the doctoral level research courses.

II. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the role of social workers in conducting and consuming research;
2. Understand the role of theory in social work research;
3. Formulate a research question and testable hypothesis;
4. Identify independent and dependent variables and levels of measurement;
5. Identify and address issues that should be considered when conducting research with diverse and vulnerable populations including children, pregnant women, incarcerated or mandated clients, persons affected by cognitive disabilities, members of minority groups, and any subjects who may be different from the researcher;
6. Identify ways to protect at-risk populations when conducting research;
7. Identify and address ethical issues arising during conduct of social work research;
8. Knowledge of descriptive statistics, when and why they are used and how to interpret them;
9. Learn SPSS to analyze data.
III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Texts and Software


PASW Student GradPack (Version 17) [Computer software]. Chicago, IL: SPSS.


B. Course Assignments

Students are expected to review all online presentations, complete all readings, and all assignments in a timely manner. Students are expected to communicate with the instructor with any questions that arise in working through the course content.

The assignments will include a series of exercises, short tests, midcourse exam, data analysis assignments, and a final exam.

C. Grading Policy

The course is Pass/Fail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercises, short tests, data analysis assignments</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midcourse Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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D. Preparation, Attendance, & Participation

Students are required to listen to all online PowerPoint narrated lectures, read all assigned readings, and complete all assignments. As this is an online course it is the students responsibility to contact the instructor with questions, concerns, and problems. The course is self-paced with a completion date of December 14, 2009. It is the students responsibility that they schedule enough time to complete the course, assignments, and exams by this date.

E. Course and Instructor Evaluation

The NCSSS doctoral program requires evaluation of this course and the instructor. At the end of the semester, an evaluation form will be distributed in class. Results will not be given to the instructor until grades are submitted. Additional, informal written or verbal feedback to the instructor during the semester is encouraged and attempts will be made to respond to requests.
IV. CLASS EXPECTATIONS  
Please refer to NCSSS Announcements, or appropriate Program Handbook for Academic Requirements (available on the NCSSS web page http://nccss.cua.edu ), including scholastic and behavioral requirements.

A. Scholastic Expectations  
All written work should reflect the original thinking of the writer, cite references where material is quoted or adapted from existing sources, adhere to APA format, and should be carefully proof read by the student before submission to the instructor for grading.

Additional Behavioral Requirements:  
Students are expected to maintain accepted standards of professional conduct and personal integrity. Students should:

- Recognize and avoid behavior that jeopardizes the learning/teaching environment of other students or the instructor
- Demonstrate competence in planning academic activities and in following through on those plans
- Use an appropriate level of instructor’s time and attention in and out of class
- Behave in a manner that is consistent with the ethical principles of the social work profession.

B. Academic Honesty  
Joining the community of scholars at CUA entails accepting the standards, living by those standards, and upholding them. Please refer to University Policy and appropriate Program Handbooks.

C. Accommodations  
Students with physical, learning, psychological or other disabilities wishing to request accommodations must identify with the Disability Support Services (DSS) and submit documentation of a disability. If you have documented such a disability to DSS that requires accommodations or an academic adjustment, please arrange a meeting with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss these accommodations.
## Course Content

**Intro**  
*Introduction to the course*

**Module 1**  
*Introduction to Social Work Research*  
Sources of knowledge  
Reasons for social work research  
Quantitative and qualitative approach  
Research roles  
**Required Reading:**  
Trochim & Donnelly: Preface; Chapter 1-2 Philosophy of Research;  
Chapter 6-1a-d Qualitative Measures

**Module 2**  
*Theory and Ethics in Research*  
Theory and research  
Ethical issues and professional responsibility  
Sensitivity to gender, and ethnic/cultural issues in research  
**Required Reading:**  
Trochim & Donnelly: Chapter 1-3 Ethics in Research

**Module 3**  
*Problem Formulation*  
Formulation of research questions and hypotheses  
Identification of variables  
Conceptualization and operationalization of variables  
Levels of variable measurement  
**Required Reading:**  
Trochim & Donnelly: Chapter 1-1 The Language of Research; Chapter 1-4a Problem Formulation  
Faherty: Chapter 1 pages 17-25

**Module 4**  
*Introduction to Statistics*  
Introduction to SPSS/PASW  
Descriptive vs inferential statistics  
Frequency distributions and percentages, graphs  
**Required Reading:**  
Faherty: Chapter 2 pages 26-37; Appendix A; Chapter 3, Chapter 4

**Module 5**  
*Univariate Statistics*  
Measures of central tendency  
Measures of dispersion  
The normal distribution  
z-scores and percentiles  
**Required Reading:**  
Faherty: Chapter 5; Chapter 6
Module 6  **Bivariate Statistics: I**  
Significance level  
Substantive vs statistical significance  
t-test for one sample, and independent and paired samples  
**Required Reading:**  
Faherty: Chapter 8; Chapter 12; Chapter 13

Module 7  **Bivariate Statistics: II**  
One-way analysis of variance  
Chi-square test  
**Required Reading:**  
Faherty: Chapter 14; Chapter 9

Module 8  **Bivariate Statistics: III**  
Pearson Correlation  
**Required Reading:**  
Faherty: Chapter 10, Chapter 11