

School of Social Work -- PhD Courses 2011-12

Foundation Courses

***900 CONCEPTUALIZING SOCIAL PROBLEMS TO INFORM INTERVENTIONS (3).** An application and critical analysis of behavioral and social science theories and theory-driven research for understanding the etiology of social problems for purposes of social intervention.

***910 RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL INTERVENTION (3).** This course provides an introduction to basic research processes and methods for use in planning, implementing, evaluating, and improving social interventions. Topics include outcomes monitoring, problem formulation, assessment, measurement, research review, human subjects' protection, evaluation design, data analysis, and the application of findings to practice improvement and theory refinement.

***911 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS (3).** This course is designed to explore basic statistical concepts related to the behavioral sciences and to provide instruction in the following topics: basic data analysis; construction and analysis of data tables; graphical analysis of data; knowledge and application of descriptive and inferential statistics; and knowledge and application of statistical software programs to analyze data.

***918 APPLIED REGRESSION ANALYSIS AND GENERALIZED LINEAR MODELS (3).** This course introduces statistical frameworks, analytical tools, and social behavioral applications of OLS regression model, weighted least-square regression, logistic regression models, and generalized linear models.

***919 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS (3).** The objective of this course is to provide an overview of the fundamentals of the use of qualitative research, particularly as it applies to intervention research. The focus of this class is on the development of skills used by qualitative researchers. Particular attention will also be paid to developing skills in the evaluation of qualitative research methods, designing rigorous, high quality studies, and the protection of vulnerable research participants in qualitative studies.

***941 TEACHING PRACTICUM (3).** This practicum provides a range of supervised classroom or training opportunities designed to prepare advanced doctoral students for faculty positions in undergraduate- and graduate-level social work education. The goal of this practicum is to familiarize aspiring professors with evidence based practices for instruction design and delivery in social work education. Students achieve this goal through a supervised learning experience with a teaching mentor and seminars on syllabus construction, learning objectives, instructional methodologies, strategies for evaluating student performance, and managing sensitive issues in the classroom. The seminars will also provide an opportunity for students to discuss their progress in the practicum and receive feedback from their peers and the instructor.

Advanced Courses

***912 RESEARCH PRACTICUM I (3).** Students develop independent research competence through work on a research project under the direction of an experienced researcher.

***913 INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL INTERVENTION (3).** Students build advanced competence in research design, data collection, data analysis, and statistics by analyzing exemplary social work research and presenting independent learning projects within specialized areas of study.

***914 MEASUREMENT IN SOCIAL INTERVENTION RESEARCH (3).** This course focuses on the development of knowledge and skill in measuring social, psychological, environmental, and other factors related to intervention with individuals, families, groups, and organizations.

915 RESEARCH PRACTICUM II (Var.). Students develop independent research competence through work on a research project under the direction of an experienced researcher. (This is an additional opportunity to conduct independent research).

916 STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING (SEM). SEM is a general statistical method that can be employed to test theoretically derived models. It is—a class of methodologies that seeks to represent hypotheses about the means, variances, and covariances of observed data in terms of a smaller number of ‘structural’ parameters defined by a hypothesized underlying model (Kaplan 2000). In this course, students will learn fundamental concepts and skills to conduct SEM, and know how to apply these techniques to social work research.

917 LONGITUDINAL AND MULTILEVEL DATA ANALYSIS (3). This course introduces statistical frameworks, analytical tools, and social behavioral applications of three types of models: event history analysis, hierarchical linear modeling (HLM), and growth curve analysis.

919 ADVANCED TOPICS IN CAUSAL INFERENCE: PROPENSITY SCORE AND RELATED MODELS (3). This course focuses on advanced topics in causal inference by reviewing four recent methods developed for observational studies and evaluation of quasi-experimental programs.

***940 DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL INTERVENTION MODELS (3).** The purpose of this course is to prepare advance graduate students to design and evaluate interventions that address social needs, problems, and conditions.

***994 DOCTORAL DISSERTATION (Var.).** Dissertation work In semesters subsequent to the dissertation seminar (SOWO 913), students continue to register for SOWO 994 for a variable number of credits in order to retain their status as full time students. Students must take two semesters of dissertation credits.

***Required course**

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