

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**

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**General Syllabus:**

**SOWK 4613 Research in Social Work**

Credit Hours: 3      Lecture Hours: 3      Laboratory: None

Prerequisite: Admission to BSW, senior standing, PSYC 2613 Research Methods in Psychology, PHIL 3203 Ethics Across the Disciplines, 9 hours upper level SOWK courses, or departmental permission.

Effective Catalog: 2015-2016

**I. Course Information:**

**A. Catalog Description**

Develop an understanding of and skills in the approaches, techniques, and challenges of conducting social work research and to enable students to be competent and discerning consumers of social science literature.

**B. Additional Information-** None

**II. Student Learning Outcomes:**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics <http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/CODE/Default.asp>.
2. Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research. (Competency 2.1.6)
3. Demonstrate Generalist Practice and core competencies. (Competency 2.2)  
*\*The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires 10 Core Competencies, a Code of Ethics, and Generalist Practice requirements.*

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Communication Skills**

Students will demonstrate appropriate written and verbal communication skills through papers and oral presentations concerning course focus and in accordance with instructions.

**Technological Skills**

Students will use the library and internet resources to research literature to complete research papers, written assignments, and to prepare for class discussions. The use of a variety of technological resources will be a graded component of these written and verbal activities.

**Quantitative Reasoning**

Students will apply various experimental design methods and statistical procedures to various datasets. The course will include computer lab work and data collection.

**Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will be introduced to global and cultural perspectives with respect to the social work profession and in accordance with the CSWE core competency requirements. Written and verbal activities will require that students demonstrate an understanding of these global and cultural perspectives.

**Ethics**

Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of social work (nationally and internationally) as a discipline, and as a profession. Standard ethical conduct reflected by the CSWE and related international Social Work associations will be addressed.

**III. Major Course Topics:**

- A. Inferential Statistics
- B. Experimental Design
- C. Scientific Method
- D. Ethics in Behavioral Research
- E. APA style writing
- F. Development of Surveys and Questionnaires
- G. Implementation of a Research Project.