A. Description of Course Content

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of and ability to analyze, monitor, and evaluate evidence informed interventions and human service programs. In this course quantitative and qualitative research methods and approaches are applied to the scientific and ethical evaluation of evidence informed interventions and human service programs. Research skills and knowledge are presented from the perspective of promoting diversity and social and economic justice in the evaluation of social work. Prerequisite: Advanced Standing OR SOCW 5308.

B. Student Learning Outcomes

The Council on Social Work Education requires that accredited social work programs follow the CSWE Educational Policy and Standards that comprises nine competencies as follows:

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Engage Diversity and Difference in Practice
3. Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
4. Engage In Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice
5. Engage in Policy Practice
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

Advanced courses at the MSW level incorporate advanced competencies that are specific to a student’s
This course is required of all MSW students, and addresses Competencies 1, 4, and 9 at the advanced specialty level, as indicated in the following tables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate awareness of aging-related personal and professional values through self-reflection and self-regulation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice active self-reflection and continue to address personal bias and stereotypes to build knowledge and dispel myths regarding diverse family structures, families with compels family dynamics and families with multiple challenges and issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implement an effective decision-making strategy using cognitive and affective processes and judgment for deciphering ethical dilemmas in mental health/substance abuse treatment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognize the role of other health professions when engaging in inter-professional teams from a systems perspective approach in health care service delivery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are knowledgeable about the history of community and administrative practice in the profession.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seek out ongoing learning opportunities and practice ethical use of technology in all forms of communication.</td>
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</table>
## Competency 4: Engage in Practice-informed Research and Research-informed Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aging</th>
<th>Children &amp; Families</th>
<th>Mental Health &amp; Substance Abuse</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Community &amp; Administrative Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Understand and build knowledge central to maximizing the well-being of older adults and their caregivers.</td>
<td>Use advanced strategies to search, appraise, and select for application the most up to date evidence and evolving practice guidelines in the assessment and interventions with children and families. Develop effective models, programs, policies, and interventions and assess their effectiveness using valid and reliable assessments for identifying family problems, risks and protective factors, vulnerability and resilience factors and consequences for different family groups and family members.</td>
<td>Use advanced cognitive and affective processes to search, appraise, select for application the most up to date evidence and evolving practice guidelines in the assessment and interventions with mental health/substance abuse clients. Develop effective models, programs, policies and interventions and assess their effectiveness. Use valid and reliable assessments for identifying client problems, risk and protective factors, vulnerability and resilience factors, and consequences for various individuals and groups.</td>
<td>Demonstrate an understanding of the role of evidence-based practice and practice-informed research in promoting health equity and reducing health disparities. Engage in critical analysis and apply it appropriately in health related settings to assess and intervene with individuals and families in health care settings. Have an understanding that their own personal beliefs or biases may influence interpretation of or translation of research. Understand the value of, and need for, basing their practice in science, including both theory and methods. They assess the quality of research according to rigorous standards. They judge its applicability to particular social, economic, and cultural contexts. They seek out research across many disciplines to broaden their knowledge base. Are conscientious users of research, they also add to the body of knowledge for others by evaluating their practice and participating in research efforts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Competency 9: Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aging</th>
<th>Children &amp; Families</th>
<th>Mental Health &amp; Substance Abuse</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Community &amp; Administrative Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Plan and conduct evaluations to continuously improve programs, policies, and practice impacting older adults and their caregivers.

Use and translate evaluation outcomes to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of programs, policies, and practice for an aging society.

Contribute to the theoretical knowledge base in the area of children and families through practice-based research, and use evaluation of the process and/or outcomes to develop best practices with children and families.

Contribute to the theoretical knowledge base in the area of mental health/substance abuse through practice-based research, and use evaluation of the process and/or outcomes to develop best practices informed by cognitive and affective processes.

Integrate sources of knowledge—including but not limited to, public health, health disparities, inter-professional, and social work theories and research, input from constituencies, and broader societal trends—within evaluation processes.

Plan and conduct evaluations to continuously improve programs, policies, and practice impacting health care consumers, families, groups, programs, organizations, and communities.

Value the importance of evaluation in interventions with groups, organization and communities and understand the role of evaluation in advancing efficient, effective, and policy-relevant interventions.

Distinguish between micro-level and macro-level evaluation, and apply macro-level theories to critically appraise both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods.

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**For the purposes of Quality Matters Certification, the following course objectives apply:**

1. Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior when designing and conducting research with clients and community partners.
2. Explain the major concepts in Single Subject Research Design (SSRD).
3. Demonstrate skills to conduct and assess a Single Subject Research Design.
4. Explain the major concepts in program evaluation.
5. Demonstrate skills to conduct a community-based program evaluation.
6. Demonstrate skills to collect, analyze, and interpret data.
7. Demonstrate skills to effectively communicate results of a community-based program evaluation.

**C. Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials**


**Required Computer Software:**

Microsoft Word 2007 or later

Microsoft Excel 2010 or later

**Note on Computer Software:**

We will use Excel for statistical analysis in this class. Although the use of the software will be demonstrated on many occasions in class modules, this is not a technology course. The focus of this class will be on the implementation, understanding, and interpretation of statistical findings used in practice and program evaluation research, not on instruction on how to use Excel software. Those students who are totally unfamiliar with EXCEL software may also want to consider:
There are excellent, free online EXCEL tutorials available via YouTube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L1OVkw2ZO8

Additional Reading Materials:

All readings other than textbook chapters, e.g., journal articles, will be available on the course site under the assigned learning module for that/those reading(s).

Learning Modules:

Weeks are organized by learning modules. Students will be responsible for accessing each week’s learning modules, which will generally contain the week’s topics and reading assignments (per the syllabus). There may also be additional materials for review in the learning module.

D. Additional Recommended Textbooks and Other Course Materials

as assigned by instructor

E. Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations

There are 10 Discussion Boards (40 points):

You will be asked to participate in a series of online discussion forums. The purpose of these discussions is to help students connect the course content to the written assignments, allow the instructor to gauge student learning, and encourage cross-dialogue among students and the instructor. You will be expected to respond to the instructor's prompt and to also respond to at least two other students’ responses. Each discussion board is worth 4 points (2 points for your response and 2 points for your comments to your classmates). In order to earn the full points in any given session, students must meet the following criteria: 1. Respond to the assigned discussion board question AND comment on two postings from classmates. 2. Demonstrate thoughtfulness, effort and masters-level writing skills in your responses. Students are encouraged to respond to other students’ postings and to participate in more than the minimum number of discussions required, as participation will generally enhance your understanding of the material as well as your overall experience in the course. Addresses competencies 1, 4, and 9.

Individual Evaluation Proposal (30 points): You will be required to contribute to one team assignment during the semester. For the first part of the assignment you will individually draft an evaluation proposal and present it to your team mates for consideration. The instructor will assign students to teams at the beginning of the semester. After proposals are reviewed by the team, the team will collectively decide which one to pursue and carry out. More detailed instructions will be contained under the Assignments section of the course. Addresses competencies 1, 4, and 9.

Team Final Report (30 points): The second assignment will require you to work in a team to carry out part of your proposed program evaluation and prepare a written report of the evaluation and the results. As part of the team program evaluation, teams will prepare a visual presentation of their final report. At a minimum, please use PowerPoint for these presentations, but alternative software/formats, e.g., Prezi, YouTube, etc., are also allowed. Groups are encouraged to incorporate video and other multi-media components into these presentations. Each presentation should have an accompanying infographic. More detailed instructions will be contained under the Assignments section of the course. Addresses competencies 1 and 9.

** Ideas submitted in discussion boards, proposals and study findings should be logically and coherently presented. Relevant citation of the literature must be evident in all written work. Grammar and APA style will be considered in grading.**

Assignment Points
Online Discussion Forums (10 graded discussion boards) 40 points (4 points each DB X 10)

Evaluation Proposal 30 points

Final Report/Presentation 30 points

Total 100 points

F. Attendance

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or engagement online via Canvas. This data is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Information specific to modality and meeting times for this course are provided in the section below.

Frequently engaging with peers and the materials posted will be the primary markers of attendance for this course.

G. Grading

90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
0-59 F

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see "Student Support Services," below.

H. Make-Up Exams

There are no exams in this course. However, weekly discussion board posts MUST be posted by assigned date (to earn credit).

I. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Required Readings and Assignments</th>
<th>Assignment with Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Course Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
<th>Discussion Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Evaluation: Defining Terms and Ethical Considerations</td>
<td>Review Course Syllabus Read Chapter 1</td>
<td>Graded Discussion Board #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Framing Evaluation: Paradigms, Branches and Theories</td>
<td>Read Chapter 2</td>
<td>Optional Discussion Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Postpositivist Paradigm</td>
<td>Read Chapter 3</td>
<td>Graded Discussion Board #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Pragmatic Paradigm</td>
<td>Read Chapter 4</td>
<td>Optional Discussion Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Constructivist Paradigm</td>
<td>Read Chapter 5</td>
<td>Optional Discussion Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Transformative Paradigm * The Social Justice Branch</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6</td>
<td>Graded Discussion Board #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Working with Stakeholders</td>
<td>Read Chapter 7</td>
<td>Graded Discussion Board #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Evaluation Purposes, Types, &amp; Questions</td>
<td>Read Chapter 8</td>
<td>Graded Discussion Board #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Evaluation Designs</td>
<td>Read Chapter 9</td>
<td>Graded Discussion Board #6</td>
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</table>
| 10| Data Collection Strategies & Indicators                                      | Read Chapter 10                   | Grade Discussion Board #7  
**Evaluation Proposal Due March 30th 2021** |
| 11| Stakeholders, Participants, & Sampling                                      | Read Chapter 11                   | Grade Discussion Board #8 |
| 12| Data Analysis & Interpretation                                               | Read Chapter 12                   | Grade Discussion Board #9 |
| 13| Communication & Utilization of Findings                                     | Read Chapter 13                   | Grade Discussion Board #10 |
| 14| - Meta-Evaluation & Project Management - Issues in Evaluation               | Read Chapter 14 & 15              | Optional Discussion Board |
| 15| Group work on Program Evaluations                                           | No assigned readings              | Optional Discussion Board |
|   | Group work on Program Evaluations                                           | No assigned readings              | Final Report Due May 4th 2021  |
As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

**J. Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional three hours (for each hour of class or lecture per week) of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for assignments and exams, and reviewing online content, etc.

**K. Librarian to Contact**

The Social Sciences/Social Work Resource Librarian is Brooke Troutman. Her office is in the campus Central Library. She may also be contacted via E-mail: brooke.troutman@uta.edu or by phone: (817)272-5352.

The following is a list of commonly used library resources:

- Library Home Page
- Library Services
- Subject Guides
- Subject Librarians
- Course Reserves
- Library Tutorials
- Connecting from Off-Campus
- Ask a Librarian

**L. Grade Grievances**

For more information on the grade grievance process please see the BSW Program Manual or the MSW Program Manual. Grade grievance can be submitted through the BSW Grade Grievance form or the MSW Grade Grievance form located on the Forms and Resources website.

**M. Institutional Policies**

UTA students are encouraged to review these institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. The following policies can be found on the UTA Syllabus Institutional Policies page:

- Drop Policy
- Observance of Religious Holy Days
- Disability Accommodations
- Non-Discrimination Policy
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Electronic Communication
- Campus Carry
- Final Review Week
- Student Feedback Survey
- Active Shooter
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Student Support Services

**N. Mandatory Face Covering Policy**

All students and instructional staff are required to wear facial coverings while they are on campus, inside
buildings, and in classrooms. Students that fail to comply with the facial covering requirement will be asked to leave the class session. If students need masks, they may obtain them at the Central Library, the E.H. Hereford University Center’s front desk, or in their department. Students who refuse to wear a facial covering in class will be asked to leave the session by the instructor, and, if the student refuses to leave, they may be reported to UTA’s Office of Student Conduct.