

SYLLABUS FOR PROJECT/THESIS (SWRK 298/299)	
Spring 2020	California State University, Fresno
Course Information: SWRK 299 Thesis & SWRK 298 Project (<u>5 Chapters</u>)	Instructor Name
Units: 2	Office Number:
Time:	E-Mail:
Location:	Telephone:
Website:	Office Hours:

Course Description and Prerequisites:

A. SWRK 298 – Five Chapter Project. (2 units)

Prerequisites: SWRK 292 and Advancement to Candidacy. See *Criteria for Thesis and Project*. Preparation, completion, and submission of an acceptable project for the master's degree. Approved for RP grading.

B. SWRK 299 – Thesis (2 units).

Prerequisites: SWRK 292 and Advancement to Candidacy. See *Criteria for Thesis and Project*. Preparation, completion, and submission of an acceptable thesis for the master's degree. Approved for RP grading.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author

Highly Recommended:

American Psychological Association (2009). *Concise rules of APA style*. (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author.

Szuchman, L., & Thomlison, B. (2011). *Writing with style: APA style for social work*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

COURSE SPECIFICS

It is expected that training for advanced, autonomous social work practice would culminate in the independent production of a research project or thesis. The final project should provide evidence of originality, appropriate organization, and clarity of purpose, critical analysis, and accuracy and completeness of documentation. This effort should be a significant critical analysis of the practice of social work. It is presumed that this experience will prepare one to better evaluate his/her own social work practice.

Work toward completion of the project should be started in SWRK 292, Project/Thesis Seminar. SWRK 292 requires, at minimum, that students complete the problem statement and methodology chapters of their project or thesis and a draft of their literature review chapter. Students are also encouraged to complete literature reviews, develop instruments, and initiate data collection in SWRK 292.

Course Goals

1. To implement a research study (based on a research proposal completed in SWRK 292, Project/Thesis Seminar) that contributes to social work practice knowledge
2. To collect and analyze data for the research study, using methods appropriate to the research question/hypothesis and the student's research paradigm.
3. To provide a concrete research experience that also demonstrates sensitivity and understanding of the impact of culture, ethnicity, race, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age.
4. To demonstrate compliance with the NASW Code of Ethics and CSUF human subjects guidelines in data collection, analysis, and the reporting of findings.
5. To complete a written report that includes a problem statement, literature review, methodology, data analysis, and conclusions/recommendations. The final report must conform to the style guidelines issued by the American Psychological Association Publications Manual, Sixth Edition (2010).

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate through the written production of a project or thesis the ability to:

- 1.1 Complete a problem statement that indicates the purpose of the study, the problem's link to social work practice, and the scope of the problem addressed. [EPAS 2.1.6 PB1]
- 1.2 Relate research findings to a theoretical literature review and/or a conceptual model and an empirical literature review.

- 1.3 Implement research methodology to test hypotheses or to answer researchable questions. [EPAS 2.1.6 PB1]
- 1.4 Use a completed and faculty approved research proposal to guide data collection, data analysis, and final report writing in consultation with project/thesis chair and readers. [EPAS 2.1.6 PB1]
- 2.1 Implement research design and data collection strategies that are consistent with the research questions and epistemological paradigms. [EPAS 2.1.6 PB1]
- 2.2 Implement data collection methods that maximize the validity and reliability of findings within the paradigm used. [EPAS 2.1.6 PB1]
- 2.2 Implement data analysis methods that are appropriate for the research question addressed and the concepts and variables measured.
- 2.3 Use computer technology and software to analyze data as appropriate. [EPAS 2.1.6 PB1]
- 2.5 Interpret findings from the data analysis and present them appropriately using charts, graphs, or narrative.
- 3.1 Incorporate culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age in the conceptualization of a social work problem. [EPAS 2.1.5 PB1, PB2, 2.1.6 PB1]
- 3.2 Incorporate culture, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age in the design of the research study. [EPAS 2.1.5 PB1, PB2, 2.1.6 PB1]
- 3.3 Incorporate culture, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age in the researcher's interaction with research subjects and the development of human subjects protections. [EPAS 2.1.5 PB2, 2.1.6 PB1]
- 3.4 Implement instrumentation, data collection, analysis, and reporting procedures that are population specific and culturally appropriate to accurately incorporate the values, behaviors, cultural symbols, knowledge, and perspectives of the populations studied. [EPAS 2.1.5 PB1, PB2, 2.1.6 PB1]
- 4.1 Implement a human subjects protocol that protects the confidentiality, privacy, and safety of research subjects. [EPAS 2.1.2 PB1, 2.1.6 PB1]
- 4.2 Implement procedures to protect vulnerable populations at-risk. Most importantly, procedures must be developed to protect members of populations who may not be able to freely give "informed consent" to participate in the study (such as children, people with mental disabilities, and prisoners). [EPAS 2.1.2 PB1, 2.1.6 PB1]

- 4.3 Develop and apply appropriate methods for storing data so that the identities of research subjects are protected. [EPAS 2.1.2 PB1, 2.1.6 PB1]
- 5.1 Summarize research findings and link them to previous research in the field.
- 5.2 Based on findings propose a solution for the identified problem that is consistent with the research findings.
- 5.3 Describe the implications of the findings for social work practice, theory, social welfare policy, and future research.
- 5.4 Identify the strengths and limitations of the research project.
- 5.5 Report research findings with the quality of writing, format, and content that meet the standards appropriate for publication in a scholarly social work journal. The format for the project/thesis must conform to the style described in Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (4th ed.).

Course requirements/assignments:

In SWRK 298/299, students are to complete their data collection and analysis and produce a completed project with the assistance of their project/thesis chair. Enrollment in SWRK 298/299 is contingent upon the completion of SWRK 292 with a grade of “C” or better.

Students are expected to complete their thesis/project in SWRK 298/299 during the last semester of the MSW program. This is the semester subsequent to their enrollment in SWRK 292, Project/Thesis Seminar. Students, who have not completed their work, must re-register for the total units through regular registration. In some cases, this may require reapplication to the University if a student has not been in continuous enrollment. Fees are listed in the Schedule of Courses. Faculty is not available for summer advising.

CSUF General Catalog contains the following information about project and thesis:

No academic distinction is made between a thesis and a project. Either one is equally acceptable as a means of fulfilling the requirements for the graduate degree. Specific departmental instructions or requirements should, however, be ascertained by the candidate before enrollment in courses 298 or 299. The instructor of record for thesis or project must issue a letter grade on the Graduate Degree Clearance form through the Division of Graduate Studies.

The finished project/thesis must evidence originality, appropriate organization, clarity of purpose, critical analysis, and accuracy and completeness of documentation where needed. .

Instructions/Format for Significant Assignments

- A. Statement of Purpose/Questions/Goals (Chapter 1)
 - 1. What is the purpose of your project/thesis?
 - 2. What are the primary research questions/goals?
 - 3. What is the scope of the problem to be addressed?

- B. Statement of Implications
 - 1. What are the implications of your project/thesis for social work practice?
 - 2. How can your project/thesis address existing needs?

- C. Statement of Theoretical/Conceptual Framework (applicable for quantitative and descriptive studies). (Chapter 2)
 - 1. What theories/conceptual frameworks exist which can help to explain how the variables in your project/thesis operate?
 - 2. How does theory suggest that the variables may be associated or related to one another?
 - 3. What hypotheses or research questions are offered linked to your study questions and are based upon theoretical literature?

For qualitative studies, address the following issues:

- 1. Description of value assumptions and approaches inherent in various types of qualitative research (applicable for qualitative studies only).
 - 2. Describe the limitations of previous theoretical frameworks used to study this research problem. (For example, if your study involves a feminist approach for research on women in prison you might describe the methodological assumptions behind this approach and review previous literature that explores why women are incarcerated. The limitations of this literature can be used to justify the use of a feminist research approach to this topic area.)
 - 3. Identify the primary research questions and concepts addressed.
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- D. Review of Relevant Empirical Literature
 - 1. How has the literature defined the major variables or concepts that areas addressed by your project/thesis?
 - 2. What previous studies have addressed these areas and what findings currently exist?
 - 3. Describe the limitations of previous empirical literature in relation to this topic area. Identify any “gaps” in the literature including those that may pertain to specific subpopulations or cultural groups. Justify the need for the study.
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- E. Methods (Chapter 3)
 - 1. What method will you employ to answer your research questions, test your hypotheses, or achieve you project/ thesis goals.

2. Define your:
 - a. Concepts/variables (as applicable)
 - b. Research design.
 - c. Measurement approach.
 - d. Sampling strategy.
 - e. Data collection process.
 - f. Methodological limitations
 - g. Human subjects protections.
 3. What data analysis methods were used to obtain your results?
- F. Findings, Results (Chapter 4):
1. Present appropriate data, graphs or charts, or construct a written narrative using to describe your results.
 2. Present appropriate data, graphs or charts, or construct a written narrative using to describe your results Present appropriate data, graphs or charts, or construct a written narrative using to describe your result.
- G. Discussion/Implications/Conclusion (Chapter 5)
1. Are your findings consistent with the previous literature?
 2. How can the findings be used?
 3. How do the findings contribute to social work theory?
 4. What are the implications of the findings for social work practice?
 5. Do the findings suggest that any changes in government or agency policies are needed?
 6. Was the hypothesis confirmed or were the research questions adequately addressed with the data collected? If not, why?
 7. What further research/work needs to be done within the topic area?
 8. Limitations of the study
 9. Conclusion
- G. Reference List
- H. Appendix (research instrument, consent forms, related documents, charts, graphs, coding information, human subjects approvals, agency permissions, informed consent forms, letters of transmittal, and miscellaneous material not placed within the text).

Grading Policy

Grades are will based on demonstrated critical thinking, conceptual integrity in applying research knowledge, adherence to departmental standards for SWRK 298 or SWRK 299, written communication, and writing style.

Final grades will be based on accumulated points from each assignment. Grades will be based on

the following point spread:

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

Assignment and Examination Schedule

Due Date Week	Assignment	Points
Feb 17	Final version Chapters 1-3	15
Feb 28	Chapter 4 draft	25
March 6	Chapter 5 draft	25
March 20	Chapters 4 and 5 to readers	15
April 3	Final submission	20
	Total	100

COURSE POLICIES & SAFETY ISSUES

Late work and make-up work policy. Assignments are due by the end of the day (11:59 p.m.) on the respective due dates. Late assignments will be accepted only with prior permission from the instructor. The student must request the opportunity to re-work the assignment within a week of receiving the graded paper and consult with the instructor re: areas of improvement and a re-submission date.

Adding and Dropping Classes: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about the adding/dropping of classes, academic renewals, etc. Students can find more information on adding and dropping at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/classschedule/registration/add-drop.html>.

Plagiarism Detection: The campus subscribes to Turnitin plagiarism prevention service through CANVAS, and you will need to submit written assignments to Turnitin. Student work will be used for plagiarism detection and for no other purpose. The student may indicate in writing to the

instructor that he/she refuses to participate in the plagiarism detection process, in which case the instructor can use other electronic means to verify the originality of their work. Turnitin Originality Reports **will be available for your viewing.**

Please review University policies to ensure coherence with any classroom policies: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/facultyaffairs/policies/apm/index.html> and, in particular, the University Policy on Course Syllabi and Grading (APM 241)

- If you miss a scheduled appointment/consultation, it is your responsibility to reschedule and check on announcements while you were away.
- All work will be submitted online and will be available for your viewing via email or on Canvas.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES

Students with Disabilities: Upon identifying themselves to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation. For more information, contact Services to Students with Disabilities in the Henry Madden Library, Room 1202 (278-2811).

The following University polices can be found at:

Adding and Dropping Classes

<http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/registrar/registration/add-drop-deadlines.html>

Cheating and Plagiarism:

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/facultyaffairs/documents/apm/235.pdf>

Computers <https://www.fresnostate.edu/catalog/academic-regulations/index.html#computerreq>

Copyright Policy; <http://www.fresnostate.edu/home/about/copyright.html>

Disruptive Classroom Behavior;

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/facultyaffairs/documents/apm/419.pdf>

Honor Code; http://fresnostate.edu/academics/facultyaffairs/documents/apm/236_000.pdf

Students with Disabilities; <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/ssd/>

Title IX; <http://www.fresnostate.edu/adminserv/title-ix/index.html>

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

The following University services can be found at:

Associated Students, Inc. <http://fresnostateasi.org/>

Dream Success Center; <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/dsc/index.html>

Learning Center Information; free tutoring; in the Collection Level (basement level) of the Henry Madden Library. You can reach them by phone at 559.278.3052.

<http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/lrc/>

Student Health and Counseling Center; <https://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/health/>

Writing Center; <http://www.fresnostate.edu/artshum/writingcenter/>

Our campus has developed [SupportNet](http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/lrc/supportnet) (<http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/lrc/supportnet>) to connect students with specific campus resources promoting academic success. Students may be referred to it if you believe they need the services provided by SupportNet to succeed in your course.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE STATEMENT

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Information on student rights, responsibilities, academic honesty, etc., can be found on the Fresno State Student Handbook web page. The web page is located at:

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/division/general/studenthandbook/>.

COURSE CALENDAR

Consultation/Meetings: Each student is responsible for setting a date/time to meet with the professor. You are required to meet twice (2) a month.