SOCIAL WORK PROJECT

INTRODUCTION TO COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR

Syllabus for SOCIAL WORK PROJECT (SWRK 298)	
Semester: Spring 2019	California State University, Fresno
Course Name: SWRK 298, MSW 3 Chapter Graduate Project	Instructor Name:
Units: 2	Office:
Time:	E-Mail:
Location:	Telephone
Website:	Office Hours:

Course description: Preparation, completion, and submission of an acceptable project for the master's degree. Approved for RP grading. Units: 2, Repeatable up to 4 units.

Prerequisites for the course: SWRK 292 with a C grade and Advancement to Candidacy.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

There are not required texts but supplemental material is available on CANVAS.

COURSE SPECIFICS

Summary/outline of the course: 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/methodology and literature review chapters. In SWRK 298 students produce a completed project with the assistance of their project/thesis chair. Enrollment in SWRK 298 is contingent upon the completion of SWRK 292 with a grade of "C" or better. Students are expected to complete their project in SWRK 298 during the last semester of the MSW program. 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.

Course Goals

1. To select and implement a Project, based on the proposal completed in SWRK 292, that contributes to social work practice and/or social welfare policy. [Competency 4]

2. To carry out a Project clearly grounded in existing empirical literature, demonstrating an ability to translate research into practice. [Competency 4]

3. To carry out a Project that demonstrates sensitivity and understanding of the impact of culture, ethnicity, race, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age. [Competency 2]

4. To complete a three-chapter written report that includes a problem statement, literature review, methodology, and reflections/conclusions/recommendations as well as a written product documenting the completed work. [Competency 4]

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate, through the written production of a Project, the ability to:

1. Complete a problem statement that indicates the purpose of the Project, the problem's link to social work practice, and the scope of the problem addressed.

2. Relate Project design and conclusions to a literature review and a conceptual model.

3. Use advanced practice experiences to inform Project implementation.

4. Incorporate an understanding of culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and age in the conceptualization and implementation of the project.

5. Summarize Project outcomes and link them to previous research in the field.

6. Describe the implications of the Project for social work practice, theory, social welfare policy, and future research.

7. Identify the strengths and limitations of the Project.

8. Report Project process and conclusions with the quality of writing, format, and content that meet the current APA standards.

9. Integrate knowledge learned across the MSW curriculum into the Project.

Course requirements/assignments:
SWRK 298 is the second semester of the two-semester culminating experience sequence. During this semester, you will carry out the action plan you developed in SWRK 292, finalize Chapters 1 & 2, write up your reflections and conclusions in Chapter 3, and complete your written product. By the end of the semester, you will be expected to produce your three-chapter report with your written product attached in your appendix, which together constitutes your Project.

Project Guidelines

Description
A Project consists of a significant undertaking that is relevant to the field of social work practice and/or social welfare policy. It must demonstrate originality, independent thinking, effective organization, and writing proficiency descriptive of graduate level work. The completed Project includes a problem statement, comprehensive literature review, and reflections and recommendations as well as a creative component that exemplifies social work values and the profession's commitment to social justice. All references must be cited within the text and listed in the References section, following APA format. In addition to the three written chapters, Projects must result in a tangible product such as a handbook, intervention model, outcomes chart, draft legislation, or photos of art installation which can be attached as an appendix to the chapters. **Alternatively, students doing research studies may choose to use the 5 chapter format for their project.**

Following is the format for the Project:

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 is the introduction to your Project. It should be concise and identify the topic or issue that you intend to address in your Project. This statement informs the readers about the issue. It also clearly describes your Project and how you will carry out your Project. While it is difficult to determine the number of pages necessary, the approximate length of Chapter 1 is 8 to 20 pages.

Subheadings used in Chapter 1 are:

Background of the Problem
History and context of the issue or topic. In what kind of setting will the project take place?

Purpose of the Project
"The purpose of the project is…" A few sentences that explains the purpose of your project and its relevance to social work.

Need for the Project
Why is this Project necessary? What is the rationale for this project? To what extent will this project be beneficial? How does the project address disadvantaged or at-risk populations?

Definition of Terms
Provide a definition of all key terms used in your proposal.

Design
Where will the project take place, who will be involved, what will you do, and when will it be done? What will be the product produced and how will it be produced?

Relevance to Social Work
Why is this project important or relevant to the social work profession? How is the project consistent or associated with the mission, values and ethics of the profession? How is the project sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity?

Summary
Summarize the major points covered in Chapter 1. Restate the main idea of Chapter 1, the purpose, need, and methodology for the Project. The summary also will describe the organization of the remaining chapters.

CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The review of literature is written in narrative form and provides relevant background to key empirical knowledge and theoretical perspectives used in approaching the subject or topic. Chapter 2 supports the design of and the need for the Project by citing relevant conceptual and empirical literature. In order for the review of literature to be current and valid, it is recommended that most of the reference source and citations are no more than five years old. The approximate length of Chapter 2 is 20-25 pages.

The subheadings used in the conceptual and empirical literature sections will be determined by the issues and topics addressed. Each subsection of chapter 2 should address a topic or issue relevant to the topic of the literature review. Each subsection should end with a summary that covers the main points from that subsection. The chapter should end with a summary that covers the main points from chapter 2.

Some students find it useful to organize Ch. 2 according to the following outline:

- Introduction
    o overview of chapter
    o brief description of problem
    o historical, policy, practice background of problem
- Conceptual Literature
    o primary theories guiding research/practice in the problem area
- Empirical Literature
    o discussion and synthesis of research studies on the problem area
    o break into subheadings to organize discussion by theme in the literature
- Gaps in the literature
    o based on what we know so far, what should happen next?
- Rationale and Goal of the Project
    o how does existing knowledge support your project?
- Conclusion
    o summary of the chapter

CHAPTER 3: REFLECTIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Chapter 3 describes the Project outcome and documents the knowledge gained and conclusions drawn from conducting the Project as well as recommendations for future action. This chapter also links outcomes to the literature reviewed.

Project Description
Description of the outcome or product that resulted from your Project. This should be a detail, complete and robust description of your outcome or product.

Discovery
What new and/or existing social work knowledge or insights does your project support? This new knowledge or insight may be framed as local, regional, state or national knowledge or insight. It can also be expressed as micro, mezzo and macro. How is this knowledge and/or insights supported and/or contradicted by your literature review?

Conclusions

In your conclusion, include an discussion of the project impact, its practical applications and implications for social work practice. Include how your literature review supports your project's impact, application and implications.

Supporting Data (if any)
This section includes discussion and presentation of data you may have collected for your project. Generally these are data collected from a small sample size in which no inferential conclusions can be drawn, such as satisfaction surveys, feedback from project participants, participant interviews, pre-test post-test.

Project Challenges
What challenges did you encounter during the planning and implementation of the project? How did you address or overcome these challenges?

Reflections
Reflections by the student regarding their learning experiences in developing and implementing the project. Reflections include, but not limited to, cognitive, emotional and practice learning experiences gained by the student during the course of this project.

Recommendations
What recommendations can you offer for social work practice or future research based on your discovery and conclusions?

Appendix
Evidence of product is located in this section.

Grading
Grades are will be 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	Assignment	Points
Feb 17	Final chapters 1 and 2	15
March 27	Outcome attachment	25
Apr 3	Chapter 3	25
Apr 10	Submission to readers	15
April 24	Completed project	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.**

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 polces 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) 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.

For free tutoring on campus, contact the Learning Center (http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/lrc) in the Collection Level (basement level) of the Henry Madden Library. You can reach them by phone at 559.278.3052.

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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. You should have something in writing to discuss your project/thesis along with any previous feedback.