SW 800: Proseminar in Social Work and Social Science          Berit Ingersoll-Dayton
Fall 2015         3712 SSWB
Monday, 5:30 – 7:30 pm     763-6577
bid@umich.edu

Course Description:
This seminar is an introduction to the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science. The focus of the course concerns the nature, place and practice of interdisciplinary scholarship that can emphasize learning and developing basic knowledge as an end in itself, and develop the means to use that knowledge to help solve problems that impinge on, or directly disrupt the quality of peoples’ lives. A central assumption is that expertise in interdisciplinary scholarship is not automatic, but involves the acquisition of habits, skills and attitudes that enable people to contribute to professional and academic advances in their chosen field. This seminar focuses on the early stages of this development. It seeks to establish an orientation to the development of scholarship that will continue once the seminar is over and to engage students in an examination of the practices, styles and domains of scholarship in social work, social welfare, and social science so that they may begin to evolve an approach to scholarship suited to their own interests, inclinations and capabilities.

Course Design:
This course is designed as a seminar that emphasizes discussion and exchange of ideas and information. Each class will require reading from the assigned articles. Throughout this term we will examine topics pertinent to making explicit the requirements and practices of scholarship and meet with a number of faculty from the School of Social Work. These faculty will describe their own research, how it was conceived, executed and disseminated, so as to give students a direct sense of different styles of scholarship, as well as increased knowledge of domains of research with which they may wish to be associated in the future. Students will take an active role in framing our discussions. This year, we will focus on three aspects of social work scholarship: the science of social work and how social work integrates the social sciences; biographical influences on one’s scholarship trajectory; and addressing and managing ethical issues on one’s scholarship.

Readings:
All readings for the course will be available on the course Canvas site: SW800 001 F15.
Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship:

This topic will be addressed specifically in two sessions led by Professor Joseph Himle and will be a focus throughout the course.

Course Assignments:

PEERRS Certification: Due October 12

Students are expected to complete 3 modules from the Program for Education and Evaluation in Responsible Research and Scholarship (PEERRS): Foundations of Good Research Practices, Human Subjects-Social Behavior, and Authorship. To take these computer-based modules, go to http://my.research.umich.edu/peerrs/. Submit the Certification to Berit Ingersoll-Dayton (bid@umich.edu).

Two essays: Please upload your essays to the Assignments section of our Canvas site by the due date (see below) for each assignment.

Essay One (Grand Challenges and Science of Social Work within a Historical Perspective): Due October 26 (5-6 pages, double spaced)

In this essay, the focus is on our readings and discussions of social work’s Grand Challenges and the science of social work. For this assignment, identify two articles written on your area of interest and published in a social work/social welfare policy journal during the year you were born, and two articles on the same or a similar topic in current issues of this journal. The following journals are recommended for this assignment: Social Work, Social Work Research (or Social Work Research and Abstracts); Social Service Review; Social Casework, Families in Society; Social Work and Sociology, Child Welfare, Children and Youth Services Review, and Journal of Gerontological Social Work. Your essay should address the following questions: What do these four articles say about the social work scholarship on your topic and its development over time? How do they reflect an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship? To what degree do they reflect the approaches to scholarship discussed in our readings on the grand challenges and the science of social work? What are the tensions involved in this kind of scholarship? How might you approach these challenges and tensions in your own research and scholarship?

Essay Two (Becoming Acquainted with the Research of Social Work Faculty): Due December 1 (5-6 pages, double spaced)

For this paper you will identify and meet with two social work faculty members whose research is of interest to you. Read at least three publications by each faculty member. After reviewing their work, meet with each faculty member for about an hour to learn more about his or her scholarship and the work they are doing currently. In particular, discuss how they: a) see their research situated within the grand challenges and the science of social work; b) draw
from their life experiences as an influence on their scholarship; and c) address ethical issues that have arisen over the course of their research. In your paper discuss why you chose these faculty members, what you learned about their scholarship, and what you learned about the process of scholarship in general from reading their work and talking with them.

**Class Participation:**
Each week we will engage in group discussion and we will also have invited presentations from social work faculty, therefore attendance is essential. All students are expected to attend every class session and participate in discussions.

**Grading:**
The overall grade for the course will be based on the completion of PEERRS Certification (10%), two written assignments (40% for each assignment), and participation in general class discussions (10%).

An A grade is given for exceptional individual performance. Grades in the B range reflect satisfactory completion of course requirements (competent performance). C grades reflect less than satisfactory work and D grades indicate deficient performance; neither is acceptable at the graduate level.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**
If you have a disability or condition that may interfere with your participation in this course, please schedule an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations for your specific needs. This information will be kept confidential. For more information and resources, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office.

**Religious Observances:**
Please notify me if religious observances conflict with class attendance, community participation or due dates for assignments so that we can make appropriate arrangements.
Course Schedule:

**September 14:** Navigating through the Joint Doctoral Program  
**Readings**  
Doctoral Guidelines Fall 2015

**September 21:** Grand Challenges in Social Work  
**Readings**  
Working papers on Grand Challenges Initiative (select three papers that are relevant to your research interests); Find at: [http://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative/](http://aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative/)

**September 28:** Critical Thinking and the Science of Social Work  
**Readings**  

**October 5:** Scholarly trajectories, biographical reflections  
**Readings**  

**October 12:** Advising/Mentoring Dinner  
**NOTE:** PEERRS Certification is due today.

**Readings**
How to Get the Mentoring You Want: A Guide for Graduate Students  

**October 19:** Fall Study Break- No class

**October 26:** Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship: Part 1 (Professor Joe Himle)  
**NOTE:** First Writing Assignment is due today.

**Readings**
Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship Slides Topics 1-4

**November 2:** Discussion of essays from First Assignment  
**Readings**
Essays from your classmates

**November 9:** Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship: Part 2 (Professor Joe Himle)  
**Readings**
Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship Slides Topics 5-7

**November 16:** Buddy Dinner

**November 23:** Professor Jamie Mitchell  
**Readings**


**November 30:** Professor Cristina Bares

**Readings**


**December 7:** Professor Rogerio Pinto

**NOTE:** Second Writing Assignment is due today.

**Readings**


**December 14:** Discussion of essays from Second Assignment

**Readings**

Essays from your classmates