



<b>Course title:</b>	Research Basics for Social Work Practice		
<b>Course #/term:</b>	SW 507, 004, Fall, 2021		
<b>Time and place:</b>	Thursday, 2:00 to 3:00, 3816 SSWB (alternate weeks)		
<b>Credit hours:</b>	1		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None		
<b>Instructor:</b>	Roland Zullo		
<b>Pronouns:</b>	He, His, Him		
<b>Contact info:</b>	<b>Email:</b> rzullo@umich.edu	<b>Phone:</b> 734-615-3854	
	You may expect a response within 48 hours		
<b>Office:</b>	<b>Online</b>		
<b>Office hours:</b>	After class or by appointment		

## 1. Course Statement

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### a. Course description

This course will provide students with an orientation to research, scientific inquiry, and the contribution of research in social work practice. The course will help students define research terminology, the social work ethical standards pertaining to research and evaluation, and the role of the researcher in social work practice. Students will understand the ethical, political and cultural context of research to inform micro, mezzo and macro social work. This course is not required for Advanced Standing students.

### b. Course objectives and competencies

Demonstrate how to search for and retrieve social work research studies to inform practice and navigate gaps in the evidence base (Essential 7; EPAS 4, 7, 9).

Demonstrate how to use social work practice experience and theories to inform the plan and implementation of a research data project (Essential 7; EPAS 4, 7, 9).

Develop a culturally appropriate quantitative or qualitative data collection protocol (Essential 44; EPAS 1, 5).

Demonstrate how to translate and report data results and other research-based insights to inform the improvement of social work practice on multiple levels (Essential 25, 27, 44, 45; EPAS, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8).

Describe how research can be used to combat racist, oppressive, and unjust practices and structures (Essential 25, 27, 44, 45; EPAS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8).

**c. Course design**

This hybrid minicourse will make use of different methods to facilitate knowledge development: on-line lectures, discussions and practice exercises. This course is designed to increase students' comfort level with research methods and terminology to increase their appreciation for the relevance of research in social work practice.

**d. Intensive focus on PODS**

This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on the identification of theories, practice and/or policies that promote social justice, illuminate injustices and are consistent with scientific and professional knowledge. Through the use of a variety of instructional methods, this course will support students developing a vision of social justice, learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, work toward social justice processes, apply intersectionality and intercultural frameworks and strengthen critical consciousness, self-knowledge and self-awareness to facilitate PODS learning.

## **2. Class Requirements**

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**a. Text and class materials**

There is no textbook for this class. There are weekly readings posted on Canvas that students are expected to digest. The Canvas site also includes videos that students need to watch. Following the videos are discussion opportunities where students can answer questions and share ideas. Ten of these discussion opportunities are graded. Each module ends with a quiz that covers topics from the lesson. At the end of the semester, students are to submit a final written assignment.

b. Class schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Required Readings &amp; Assignments</b>
Week 1 Sept. 9	Why Research?	Week 1 Module
Week 2 Sept. 23	Organizing Research	Week 2 Module
Week 3 Oct. 7	Key Concepts in Research	Week 3 Module
Week 4 Oct. 21	Quantitative Methods - Part 1	Week 4 Module
Week 5 Nov. 4	Quantitative Methods - Part 2	Week 5 Module
Week 6 Nov. 18	Qualitative Methods	Week 6 Module
Week 7 Dec. 9	Mixed Methods	Week 7 Module

c. Assignments

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due date</b>	<b>Percent of overall grade</b>
Quiz 1	Sept. 16, midnight Submit through Canvas	10%
Quiz 2	Sept. 30, midnight Submit through Canvas	10%
Quiz 3	Oct. 14, midnight Submit through Canvas	10%
Quiz 4	Oct. 28, midnight Submit through Canvas	10%
Quiz 5	Nov. 11, midnight	10%

Assignment	Due date	Percent of overall grade
	Submit through Canvas	
Quiz 6	Dec. 2, midnight Submit through Canvas	10%
Quiz 7	Dec. 16, midnight Submit through Canvas	10%
Discussions	Due two weeks after class Submit through Canvas	10%
Review & Synthesis	Dec. 13, midnight Submit through Canvas	20%

The Review & Synthesis involves 3 research publications relevant to a question in social work of the student's own choosing. A final written report will include the following components: (1) impetus for the research activity including the practice question(s), (2) the programmatic context, (3) search criteria to find the studies, (4) the synthesis or learning across the studies, (5) limitations of the studies, (6) the article references (in APA style). Please copy the abstract of each study in the Appendix. Students will submit the professional report (8 pages, maximum) to the canvas assignment folder for grading.

Adhere to APA style format for references and citations. Final papers use double spaced text, one-inch margins and 12 point font. For APA guidance, see:  
<https://guides.lib.umich.edu/c.php?g=283005&p=1885639>  
<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/paper-format>

d. Attendance and class participation

Attendance is not graded. Yet since we meet only seven times, excessive absences, as determined by instructor fiat, may result in a reduction in grade or a failing grade, and the matter will be brought to the attention of the student and the academic advisor by the course instructor. Please contact the instructor if you have difficulty attending the sessions.

Class participation is encouraged. Students will have the chance to earn credit for class participation by answering questions and sharing thoughts in the discussions that follow some of the videos.

e. Grading

Grades are based on a weighted performance of the literature review assignment, quizzes, and class participation. The weights are as follows:

Literature review and synthesis: 20 points

Quizzes: 70 points (seven quizzes, 10 points each)

Participation: 10 points

Grades. Course grades are based on total points scored on all assignments and activities above:

A+	98-above	B+	86-89	C+	76-79	D ≤ 69 (Fail)	
A	94-97	B	83-85	C	73-75		
A-	90-93	B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

f. Class Recording and Course Materials

Audio and video recording of in-class lectures and discussions is prohibited without the advance written permission of the instructor. Students with an approved accommodation from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities permitting the recording of class meetings must present documentation to the instructor in advance of any recording being done. The instructor reserves the right to disallow recording for a portion of any class time where privacy is a special concern. If the instructor chooses to record a class, they will decide which classes, if any, are recorded, what portion of each class is recorded, and whether a recording is made available on the course management website. On days when classes are recorded, students will be notified a recording is occurring. Class recordings and course materials may not be reproduced, sold, published or distributed to others, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the instructor.

g. COVID-19 Statement

For the safety of all students, faculty, and staff on campus, it is important for each of us to be mindful of safety measures that have been put in place for our protection. By returning to campus, you have acknowledged your responsibility for protecting the collective health of our community. Your participation in this course on an in-person/hybrid basis is conditional upon your adherence to all safety measures mandated by the state of Michigan and the University, including maintaining physical distancing of six feet from others, and properly wearing a face covering in class. Other applicable safety measures may be described in the Wolverine Culture of Care and the University's Face Covering Policy for COVID-19. Your ability to participate in this course in-person/hybrid may be impacted by failure to comply with campus safety measures. Individuals seeking to request an accommodation related to the face

covering requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Office for Institutional Equity. If you are unable or unwilling to adhere to these safety measures while in a face-to-face class setting, you will be required to participate on a remote basis. I also encourage you to review the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the COVID-related Addendum to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

#### h. Health-Related Class Absences

Please evaluate your own health status regularly and refrain from attending class and coming to campus if you are ill. You are encouraged to seek appropriate medical attention for treatment. School of Social Work students who miss class due to illness of any kind will be given opportunities to access course materials online or provided with alternative learning opportunities. Please notify me by email about your absence as soon as practical, so that I can make accommodations. Please note that documentation (a doctor's note) for medical excuses is *not* required.

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Additional School and University policies, information and resources are available here: <https://ssw.umich.edu/standard-policies-information-resources>. They include:

- *Safety and emergency preparedness*
- *Mental health and well-being*
- *Teaching evaluations*
- *Proper use of names and pronouns*
- *Accommodations for students with disabilities*
- *Religious/spiritual observances*
- *Military deployment*
- *Writing skills and expectations*
- *Academic integrity and plagiarism*