

S727 Advanced Social Work Research: Quantitative Methods I

I. Course Description

Quantitative Methods I is the first of a two-course method sequence designed to develop students' knowledge and skills in designs, methods, and techniques, and problems encountered in conducting behavioral and social research. Students will learn to critically evaluate quantitative research studies and ethics of scientific inquiry, develop a theoretically-motivated research question, and design a data collection strategy appropriate for that question. The first course in the sequence focuses on teaching students to conceptualize and design their own research project.

II. Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Critically analyze quantitative research literature, including the implications of specific methodologies and findings for people of color, women, lesbian and gay people and other populations at risk as well as those groups distinguished by age, ethnicity, culture, class, religion, and physical or mental ability.
2. Evaluate the connection between theories, conceptual frameworks, and the hypothesis testing process.
3. Construct a research question, building on identified theories and literature from both Social Work and related fields.
4. Analyze and apply the various research designs and methods such as experimental, exploratory/descriptive, and survey research.
5. Evaluate and apply sampling technique and data collection tools appropriate to their research design.
6. Develop a research proposal which includes an integrated literature review, research design, proposed analysis, and the importance of proposed study.
7. Critically evaluate the ethical, social, and/or political issues affecting their choice and development of research questions, data collection and analysis tools, and reporting of findings.

New course request:

S737 Advanced Social Work Research: Quantitative Methods II

I. Course Description

Quantitative Methods II is the second course in the research sequence designed to further develop students' knowledge, skills, and application of research methods. Based on their research proposal developed in the first sequence class, students will conduct their own research project and learn data collection and management, statistical analysis, interpretation of data, and writing a research report. Their learning will be facilitated through demonstrations and hands-on sessions in the computer lab as well as careful examination of application of research procedures in their own project (prerequisite: S727)

II. Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Conduct data collection, description, and analysis of empirical data.
 - a. Edit, code, and transform raw data.
 - b. Apply statistical techniques to the collected data and to interpret the findings.
 - c. Proficiently use statistical software.
2. Apply steps and strategies to manage data collection for successful implementation of a research project.
3. Effectively communicate research results by writing a research report and disseminating the results in the class and IUSSW annual Ph.D. Symposium.
4. Critically analyze the ethical, social, and/or political issues affecting data collection, analysis tools, and reporting of findings.
5. Implement a research study according to ethical standards guiding social work research.

