School of Social Sciences course summary

Semester 1, 2016

SOCW4011 - Evidence and Practice Based Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course convenor</th>
<th>Associate Professor Jan Breckenridge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email/ phone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.breckenridge@unsw.edu.au">j.breckenridge@unsw.edu.au</a> Phone: 93851863</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of the course**

In all contexts of social work practice there is an increasing importance placed on the use of evidence to underpin effective or ‘best’ practice. ‘Evidence-based practice’ (EBP) requires practitioners to identify and evaluate appropriate research evidence to inform their practice. However social workers are not only passive recipients of evidence, workplaces increasingly promote a culture of practice research in an attempt to plan and evaluate service delivery in a reflective and thoughtful way.

This course focuses on the connections between social work practice and research: evidence-based practice and practice-based research. Students will learn the potentials and limitations of the EBP in social work and the process of conducting the EBP. This course also provides students with opportunities to extend their understanding of different research methodologies, to obtain skills and knowledge related to the research process, to learn the importance of conducting research well-grounded in practice, and to understand ethical and political issues related to social work research. These skills and knowledge will facilitate students’ learning in other courses, field practicum, and future professional practice.

**Course learning outcomes**

In terms of *Learning Outcomes*, students can expect to gain:

- The capacity to assess and critique various styles of research used to design and implement a study of social work practice
- An appreciation of the recursive relationship between research and social work practice
- An understanding of the basic elements of research which may assist them to conduct their own practice informed
research in workplace settings
• Further skills in information literacy including locating, evaluating and using relevant evidence for the purpose of research in practice contexts

Assessment

To pass this course students must:

• Attend a minimum of 80% lectures and tutorials
• Attempt all pieces of assessment
• Contribute fairly and constructively in small group assessment tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>LENGTH/DURATION</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completion of on-line tutorial and written summary</td>
<td>1 hour tutorial 750 word summary</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Submit in Tutorial 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of Research Posters</td>
<td>25 minutes small group presentation Collaborative Poster</td>
<td>Total - 40% Production of Poster 20% Presentation 20%</td>
<td>Presented in tutorial classes 11, 12 and 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Research Report</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Friday 3\textsuperscript{rd} June by 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is an individual research report worth 40% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course (see [https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/](http://https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/)).

The full course outline will be available in Moodle in Orientation (O) Week, from Monday 22 February 2016.