

**SOCW 704 MSW Integrative Seminar  
Winter 2008**

**Instructor:** Si Transken PhD RSW  
Room 2556 Teaching and Learning  
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**Time:** Monday 11:30 to 2:20

**Location:**

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

MSW Thesis/Practicum/Project Proposal Development/Integrative Seminar has two dimensions. One is the focus on the relationship between theory, ideology, policy and practice in the study of social welfare. Its objective is to enable students to acquire, develop and apply analytical approaches to social policy. The second dimension focuses on the development of thesis/practicum/project proposals. Students are encouraged to use theoretical approaches in the formulation of the MSW research for thesis, practicum and project. It examines the steps used in the development of thesis, practicum and project proposals. It gives the students an opportunity to present their proposals and thesis/practicum/project plans with other students and faculty.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The primary purpose of this course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop a proposal for their master's thesis or practicum. By this time, it is expected that each student will be able to define an area of specialization and a potential topic of interest within that specialization (it is here that students will examine the relationship between theory, ideology, policy, and practice) from the knowledge gained in previous course work and experiences. The course is structured to help the student understand and organize the components of a proposal and final thesis or report.

**OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of this course are to provide the experiences and opportunities that allow the student to develop the ability to:

- clearly and concisely ask research questions,
- identify an area of research interest and related research problems,
- propose a structured and organized research endeavor,
- clearly define and communicate one's intentions, purposes, expectations and aspirations to student colleagues.

**TEXTBOOK:**

Mauch, J., & Park, N. (2003). *Guide to the successful thesis and dissertation: A handbook for students and faculty* (5th ed). Marcel Dekker Inc.: New York.

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

January 8: Introduction  
Review of course outline  
Expectations  
Developing a research question  
Selecting a supervisor and committee

Readings: Chapters 1, 2 & 5 from Mausch & Park

January 15: Faculty research presentation – Dawn Hemingway  
Library information session – Joanne Mathews

January 22: Faculty research presentation – Jill Grant  
Literature reviews

January 29: Research ethics  
Developing a proposal for the Research Ethics Board – Dr. Henry Harder  
Readings: Chapters 3, 4 & 6 from Mausch & Park

February 5: Faculty research presentation – Bruce Bidgood  
Methodology  
Reading: Chapter 7 from Mausch & Park

February 12: Faculty research presentation – Judy Hughes  
Analysis and reporting results  
Reading: Chapter 8 from Mausch & Park

February 19: Reading Break  
No class

February 26: Faculty research presentation – Eleanor Wint  
Putting the document together  
Reading: Chapter 8 from Mausch & Park

March 5: The defense and oral examination  
Dean of Graduate Studies  
External examiner  
Reading: Chapter 9 from Mausch & Park

March 12: Student presentations

March 19: Student presentations

- March 26: Student presentations
- April 5: Student presentations (if required)  
 Course summary  
 Instructor/course evaluation

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Assignment 1**

Students will prepare a five-page paper that states their research question, defines the key concepts that are integral to the question, and demonstrates how the concepts will be explored or tested. The paper will be graded according to the following criteria:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Spelling, grammar, style                                   | 5  |
| Clarity of the research question<br>and concept definition | 5  |
| Research   | 5  |
| Total Value  | 15 |

The assignment is due January 22. Late assignments will not be accepted without documentation that justifies the delay in submission.

**Assignment 2**

Students will submit a completed *Research Ethics Board Approval Form*. These forms are available from the Graduate Studies website. The completed form will include a brief (maximum 2 pages) summary of the research proposal. All required forms must be appended. The paper will be graded according to the following criteria:

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Spelling, grammar, style    | 5  |
| Accuracy of form completion | 5  |
| Research proposal content   | 5  |
| Organization                | 5  |
| Total Value                 | 20 |

The assignment is due February 12. Late assignments will not be accepted without documentation that justifies the delay in submission.

**Assignment 3**

Students will develop an oral presentation of their research proposal and present this to the class. The number of students in the class will determine the amount of time that will be available for the presentation. Students will prepare a 1 page point form outline for distribution. The presentation will be graded according to the following criteria:

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Clarity of oral delivery            | 5  |
| Coherence, organization and defense | 5  |
| Use of power point or overheads     | 5  |
| Total                               | 15 |

The assignment due date will be negotiated.

**Assignment 4**

Students will prepare a 30 page paper that identifies their research question, provides a literature review, and a methodological approach. These areas are critically important in the production of a thesis or practicum report. Writing style will be diligently evaluated as students must be able to achieve a very high standard for written work at this stage of their academic studies. The assignment will be graded according to the following criteria:

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Spelling and grammar     | 10 |
| APA style                | 10 |
| Clarity and organization | 5  |
| Research                 | 5  |
| Content                  | 20 |
| Total                    | 50 |

The assignment is due April 5. Papers will not be accepted after this date without documentation that justifies the delay in submission.