

## Subject Description Form

<b>Subject Code</b>	APSS6321											
<b>Subject Title</b>	Social Work Practice Research											
<b>Credit Value</b>	3											
<b>Level</b>	6											
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	Nil											
<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">100% Continuous Assessment</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Individual Assessment</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Group Assessment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Review of Article on Practice Research</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Individual research report on a simple practice research</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;</li> <li>The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and</li> <li>Student must pass all the components if he/she is to pass the subject.</li> </ul>			100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment	1. Review of Article on Practice Research	50%	0%	2. Individual research report on a simple practice research	50%	0%
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<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To enable students to understand the philosophical stance and different approaches of practice research in social work;</li> <li>2. To enable students to have a solid grasp of the methodology of practice research in social work, with particular emphasis on the integration of quantitative and qualitative methods;</li> <li>3. To enable students to integrate their own practice with social work research.</li> </ol>											
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. critically understand what practice research in social work is about;</li> <li>b. employ appropriate research methods to address and find solutions to a practice issue in social work;</li> </ol>											

	<p>c. understand the nature of social work knowledge production</p> <p>d. build up their capacity of critical and reflective thinking through researching their own practices.</p>																
<b>Subject Synopsis / Indicative Syllabus</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An overview of practice research</li> <li>2. Paradigms and philosophical stances of practice research</li> <li>3. Designing practice research</li> <li>4. Data collection in practice research</li> <li>5. Data analysis in practice research</li> <li>6. Dissemination and utilization</li> <li>7. Ethical issues in practice research</li> </ol>																
<b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom teaching by lecturer will go parallel with learning through hands-on experience by DSW students who are experienced frontline practitioners and educators.</li> <li>• It also assists students gaining an "insider" experience of doing social research, existing social research employing different approaches and methods.</li> <li>• Local research reports, journal articles, as well as edited volumes will be used for case analysis.</li> <li>• The lecturer will help students to analyze and reconstruct the major steps of how the studies have been conducted and highlight their methodological issues.</li> <li>• On the basis of above teaching and learning process, students can learn to understand the methodological strength and weaknesses of employing quantitative and qualitative methods through a review of a number of journal articles on similar research topics. In addition, students can also practice data analysis on secondary data through a term paper.</li> </ul>																
<b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods / tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="4">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Review of Article on Practice Research</td> <td>50%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Specific assessment methods / tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed				a	b	c	d	1. Review of Article on Practice Research	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓
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	2. Individual research report on a simple practice research	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Total	100%				
	<p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p>Review of journal articles requires students to review a journal article on practice research to critically identify purpose, methods, and issues in social work practice research. This will enable students to understand social work practice research in actual practice.</p> <p>The individual research report on a simple practice research requires students to conduct a simple practice research through formulating research question, methods choosing, collecting data and data analysis. Students will need to show they have a good working knowledge of social work practice research through this assignment.</p>					
<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	Class contact:					
	▪ Lecture		39 Hrs.			
	Other student study effort:					
	▪ Group discussion		20 Hrs.			
	▪ Read class materials		25 Hrs.			
	▪ Written assignments		25 Hrs.			
	Total student study effort		109 Hrs.			
<b>Reading List and References</b>	<p><b><u>Essential</u></b></p> <p>Christa Fouché (2015). <i>Practice research partnerships in social work: Making a difference</i>. Polity Press</p> <p>Krysik, J., Finn, J. (2013). <i>Research for Effective Social Work Practice</i>. Routledge.</p> <p><b><u>Supplementary</u></b></p> <p>Becker, S., Bryman, A., &amp; Ferguson, H. 2012. <i>Understanding Research for Social Policy and Social Work: Themes, Methods and Approaches</i> (2nd ed.). Bristol: Policy Press.</p> <p>Evans T., Hardy M. 2010. <i>Evidence and Knowledge for Practice</i>. Cambridge: Polity Press.</p>					

	<p>Fox, M., Martin, P. &amp; Green, G. 2007. <i>Doing Practitioner Research</i>. London: Sage.</p> <p>Gray M., Plath D., Webb S. 2009. <i>Evidence – based Social Work: A Critical Stance</i>. London and New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Merriam, S.B. &amp; Associates. 2002. <i>Qualitative Research in Practice: Examples for Discussion and Analysis</i>. San Francisco, Calif: Jossey-Bass.</p> <p>Schwarzer, D., Bloom, M. &amp; Shono, S. 2006. <i>Research as a Tool for Empowerment: Theory Informing Practice</i>. Greenwich, Conn.: Information Age Pub.</p>
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