

**School of Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1350 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706
SW 946: Faculty Research Seminar
Fall 2014-15**

Instructor Name: Lonnie Berger
Class Day(s) & Time: Monday 8:30-10:00
Office Hours: By appointment
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I. Catalog Description

This course is designed to: further the socialization of students to the Ph.D. program, its aims and objectives; provide opportunities for faculty to discuss research interests and doctoral education.

II. Course Overview

The Ph.D. Program is an interdisciplinary program that is designed to prepare social work educators and researchers to contribute to the discovery, integration, application, and dissemination of knowledge for the social work profession, the field of social welfare, and related applied sciences. The Ph.D. curriculum is designed to foster the integration of course work, research and teaching experiences, and mentor relationships with faculty in an effort to prepare students for their substantive area, the prelims, and dissertation research. The program encourages students to develop an individualized program of research that involves a mentor relationship between the student and faculty member(s) of their choice.

One of the aims of the program is to foster socialization for professional purposes. This includes but is not limited to the preparation for research and teaching in schools or programs in Social Work. The majority of graduates of the school accept positions in schools or programs in social work. However, a small number complete the program to prepare themselves for positions in research, social policy, or related fields rather than for a position in a social work academic setting.

This one-credit seminar for first year doctoral students socializes students into the aims and objectives of the PhD program and familiarizes them with faculty research interests. PhD faculty members provide presentations that describe their programs of research and discuss critical issues for future research in their areas of expertise. Students establish learning goals and a learning plan for their first year in the program and begin to formulate their substantive area of interest.

III. Course Objectives

Social Work 946 is the first course in the required Ph.D. Faculty and Student Research Seminar and is designed to:

- Socialize students to the aims, objectives, and requirements of the Ph.D. program
- Provide an opportunity for the Ph.D. faculty to discuss and share research interests with first year Ph.D. graduate students
- Provide an opportunity for students to share their experiences in the PhD program and develop a cohort of colleagues

By the end of Year 1 of the doctoral program, students are expected to:

- Have furthered their commitment to a social work teaching and/or research career with an emphasis on human diversity (i.e., to be sensitive to the impact of the forces of discrimination, economic deprivation, and oppression particularly for groups on the margin and at risk populations);
- Have demonstrated satisfactory movement toward the specification of the substantive area that they plan to use for their preliminary exam and dissertation research;
- Be thinking about who to select for a major professor;
- Have established a one-year plan (at minimum) to take the required and elective courses that are needed to prepare for prelims and dissertation research (see Ph.D. Guidelines for prelim and dissertation policies and procedures).

IV. Course Content

DATE	FACULTY NAME	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
9/8	Lonnie Berger	Doctoral Program Orientation
9/15	Jan Greenberg	TBA
9/22	Dan Meyer	Economic well-being in separated families: Research on child support and welfare
9/29	Tracy Schroepfer	The Wish to Hasten Death
10/6	Joe Glass	A research agenda to improve outcomes and increase the treatment of persons with alcohol addiction

10/13	Yang Sao Xiong	Doing Health and Social Research in Immigrant
10/20	Katherine Magnuson	TBA
10/27	Betty Kramer	Family Conflict at the End of Life
11/3	Steph Robert	TBA
11/10	Maurice Gattis	LGBT Health and Mental Health

Personal Goals Statement due

11/17	Anna Haley-Lock	TBA
11/24	Tally Moses	Researching the implications of a mental illness diagnosis for adolescents
12/1	Marah Curtis	Housing, health and well-being: How and why public policy matters
12/8	Kristi Slack	Turning 15 years of research into a coherent, feasible policy solution that won't end up on a shelf

Summary of Learning due; Statement of Future Research due (honors/masters students only)

V. Texts and Reading Materials for the Course

Copies of any reading or review materials for each seminar will be distributed a week prior to the presentation, and/or will be found at the class Learn@UW site.

VI. Evaluation of Student Outcomes

Student Requirements:

- Attend all presentations (with notification to the instructor, you may miss up to two classes without penalty to your course grade);
- Complete any reading assignments and come to class with questions that arise;
- Be an active participant in the seminar; ask questions about the research decisions, methods, findings or implications of the research, and/or the development of the faculty member's

research agenda;

- Write a 2-4 page “summary of learning” (all students): 1) what you have gained from hearing about the research agendas, projects and methods of the faculty (e.g., Have you felt inspired to do certain kinds of work or use particular methods? Do you feel clearer about the kind of research you might want to engage in, or not? Have you identified faculty you might want on your prelim committee? Do you have a better sense of academic life?), 2) what was most/least helpful to you during this seminar, and 3) what suggestions you have for future faculty research seminars. *Due Monday, December 8th.*

Additional requirements for PhD students only:

- Write a 2 page statement of your personal goals for the year. See attached example. This statement should 1) specify the courses that you plan to take this year (or more); 2) list and describe at least three goals that you would like to accomplish by the end of your first year in the program (may be related to research, teaching or other professional development goals); and 3) describe your plan for achieving each goal and any anticipated products (e.g., submission of an abstract to a Social Work Research Conference, literature review). This statement is *due November 10th*.
- Meet with your temporary advisor during the course of the semester to discuss your year-long plan (your goals) and courses for the second semester.
- Schedule a time to meet with me (20-30 minutes) towards the end of the semester to discuss your experiences and progress during the first semester.

Additional requirement for Honors/Masters Students only:

- Write a statement of possible topics that you would be interested in exploring in future research (No more than 4 pages). This statement should 1) specify your rationale for your interest in this topic; 2) describe the research questions that you would want to explore; and 3) discuss the potential implications for improving social work practice or policy.
Due December 9th.

Students satisfying all of the above requirements for the course will receive an “A” grade. If you miss more than two classes or fail to satisfy the other course requirements your grade will be an AB or lower.

Sample Statement of Personal Goals (just ONE sample—these can vary!!!)

Coursework

Fall 2012 (current)

- EPSY 760 Statistics I (3)
- SW 946 Faculty Research Seminar (1)
- SW 949 Qualitative Methods (3)
- SW 950 Applied Policy Seminar (3)

Spring 2013

- EPSY 761 Statistics II (3)
- SW 950 Applied Theory Seminar: Social factors affecting physical and mental health (Robert)(3)
- SW 947 Student Research Seminar (1)
- SW 952 Application of Research Methods: Program Evaluation (Slack)(3)

Summer 2013

- SW 999 Independent Reading (elective, 3)

Fall 2013

- SW 950 Social Policy (Berger) (3)
- ***SOC 924 Political Sociology (Elective, 3) [or other elective]***
- EPSY 964 Hierarchical Linear Modeling (Statistic, 3) [or other advanced stats course]
- SW 952 Applied Research Seminar (Greenberg) (3)

Spring 2014

- SW 951 Applied Theory: Caregiving (Kramer) (3)
- ***HDFS XX Family Theory (Soc Sci Theory, 3) [or other social science theory]***
- SOC XX Event History Analysis (Statistic, 3) [or other stats/methods class]
- SW 948 Quantitative Methods (Magnuson)
- SW 947 Student Research Seminar

Goals and Concrete Plan for Achieving Goals

1. Begin to formulate ideas about prelim topic
 - a. Do literature review about the current poverty research trends: write final papers on these topics in Fall 2012 and Spring 2013
 - b. Discuss my research interests with senior students and the temporary advisor during the Spring Semester.
 - c. Decide prelim subject and major professor by Fall 2013
 - d. Work with major professor to build prelim committee in Fall 2013
 - e. Begin to outline prelim proposal in Fall 2013(These plans have been discussed with my temporary advisor)
2. Begin to accumulate substantial knowledge around the prelim topic.

- a. Develop my own Endnote database
 - b. Identify available data sets: including variables, related previous research
 - c. Identify necessary statistical methods
3. Enhance research experience; improve research skills for quantitative research by taking relevant research methods and statistics courses and working in the IRP