



University of Nicosia, Cyprus

<b>Course Code</b> SOWK-340	<b>Course Title</b> SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH METHODS I	<b>Credits (ECTS)</b> 6
<b>Department</b> Social Sciences/Social Work Programme	<b>Semester</b> Fall	<b>Prerequisites</b> None
<b>Type of Course</b> Required	<b>Field</b> Social Work	<b>Language of Instruction</b>
<b>Level of Course</b> 1st Cycle	<b>Year of Study</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Lecturer(s)</b> Dr. Stefanos Spaneas
<b>Mode of Delivery</b> Face-to-face	<b>Work Placement</b> N/A	<b>Co-requisites</b> None

**Objectives of the Course:**

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Demonstrate the relation between social work and social research
- Demonstrate the theoretical ideas and evidence from research on effective human services, including critical and competing explanations from social work theory and other relevant disciplines
- Introduce the students into the epistemological assumptions that underpin quantitative methodologies
- Define a researchable problem using quantitative methods
- Demonstrate the selection of appropriate research questions
- Provide student with the opportunities to apply social research techniques by designing, applying and gathering quantitative data
- Demonstrate techniques of analysing quantitative data
- Write a basic research project based on quantitative research methodology

**L e a r n i n g O u t c o m e s :**

Upon the completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Recognize the epistemological assumptions that underpin quantitative research method
2. Critically assess the complex relationships and ethical/practical dilemmas surrounding social research
3. Define researchable problems using quantitative method, select appropriate research questions, and conduct relevant research
4. Recognise of how quantitative tools for research are developed in response to particular research questions
5. Critically evaluate information, arguments and assumptions, being aware of different viewpoints, the authority of source, the limitations of techniques and

the limit of their knowledge  
6. Write clear reports in an appropriate format

**Course Contents:**

1. Introduction to Social Research and Research Paradigms
2. Introduction to Research methods
3. Ethics in Social Research
4. Introduction to Quantitative Research
5. Surveys and Questionnaires
6. Sampling
7. Scale of measurement
8. Preparation of data collection
9. Display Data
10. quantitative data analysis
11. Writing a research project
12. Introduction to SPSS: Entering data, running frequencies and testing the data entered

**Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:**

Lectures, Practical Exercises and Assignments.

**Assessment Methods:**

Homework, Quiz, Mid-Term, Design Project (Essay) and Final Exam.

**Required Textbooks/Reading:**

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Alston, M. and Bowles, W.	Research for Social Workers: An Introduction to Methods	2 <sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford: Routledge	2003	0415307236

**Recommended Textbooks/Reading:**

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Bryman, A.	Social Research Methods	2nd ed., Oxford University Press	2004	0199264465
Kyriazi, N.	The research in sociology	Ellinika Grammata	1999	

