COURSE OUTLINE BY UNITS

Unit I: Knowledge Base (Chapters 1, 2)
Types of knowledge (traditional, authority, revelation, experience, media, scientific problem solving)
Defining and explaining scientific problem solving
Ideographic versus nomothetic explanation
Roles of social workers in research - purpose of research involvement
Knowledge level continuum
  Activity 1: "Does the full moon make people act funny?"
Qualitative versus Quantitative research (basic difference in approaches)
  Video: "Research Methods for the Social Sciences"
Ethics -code of ethics, ethics in research practice
  Video: "Ethical Issues in Professional Life"
  Activity 2: Ethical Dilemmas
Cultural sensitivity / respect for diversity

Unit II: Measurement (Chapters 3,4)
Formulation of research questions
Empirical and non-empirical questions
Independent versus dependent variables
  Activity 3: Identifying variables
Conceptualization and Operationalization
  Activity 4: Conceptualization and Operationalization of ideas
Evaluating measurement instruments
Validity and Reliability
  Activity 5: Identify the types of reliability
Measurement error threats to validity and reliability
  Activity 6: Coin toss

Out of class activities:
Week 1: Begin research on personal topic for the semester, explore class resources specifically focusing on ethics and professional practice
Week 2: Research, read and write assignment 1, begin reading textbook chapters 1-4
Week 3: Research, read and write assignment 2, complete reading textbook chapters 1-4
Week 4: Finalize personal topic and begin research for literature review
Week 5: Read research articles related to personal topic, study for exam

Exam guide: Read chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 from the text. In addition to general course notes, specifically be familiar with types of knowledge, inductive versus deductive reasoning, qualitative versus quantitative methods, ethical considerations for research with human subjects, levels of research and measurement, independent versus dependent variables, hypothesis, literature reviews, errors of logic (ecological fallacy, etc.), units of analysis, conceptualization and operationalization.

Unit III: Research Designs (Chapters 5, 6, 7)

Goals of Exploratory research
    Group level designs
    Case level designs
    Qualitative and Quantitative methods
Goals of Descriptive research
    Group level designs
    Case level designs
    Qualitative and Quantitative methods
Goals of Explanatory research
    Group level designs
    Case level designs
    Qualitative and Quantitative methods
Goals of Evaluative research
Threats to validity (internal and external)
    Group level designs
    Case level designs
    Qualitative and Quantitative methods

Unit IV: Sampling and Data Collection (Chapters 8, 9)
Units of analysis
    Activity 7: Identifying units of analysis
Types of probability sampling
    Activity 8: Phone book sampling
    Activity 9: Perception exercises
Types of non-probability sampling
Measures of variability
Non-probability Sampling
Sampling Techniques
Target Sample Size
Types of data to be collected (first-hand, second-hand, original, existing....)
Qualitative and Quantitative data collection methods (use of appropriate statistics)
Steps in the research process
Implementation and evaluation
    Activity 10: Data collection evaluation
Cultural Sensitivity in sampling and data collection

<u>Out of class activities:</u>
Week 6: Continue research on personal topic
Week 7: Read chapters 5 – 9 from the textbook
Week 8: Complete research and writing for assignment 3
Week 9: Begin work on guide for assignment 4
Week 10: Research and write questions for interview guide, read 3 articles from class resource guide on data analysis
Week 11: Read 3 articles from the class resource list, study for exam

Exam guide: Read chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 from the text. In addition to general course notes, specifically be familiar with levels of research design and program assessment, types of research designs, conditions for causality, threats to internal and external validity, factors in selecting participants, types of sampling and sampling techniques, types of sampling error, types of interviews and observations, issues with reliability and validity.

Unit V: Analysis of Non-numerical and Numerical Data (Chapters 10, 11, 12)
Purposes of data analysis
Frequency distributions
Measures of central tendency
      Activity 11: Calculating the mean
Data reduction (descriptive statistics, domain analysis, taxonomic analysis)
Data Patterns (correlations)
Use of graphs (visual representation)
      Activity 12: Graphing results
Generalizations (confidence intervals, participant observation)
Relationship between types of data analysis

Unit VI: Using and Sharing Research Results (Chapters 13)
Single and Multiple System evaluations
Goals and standards
Problem assessment
Monitoring activities
Measuring outcomes (client-level)
Identifying Strengths
Analyzing resources
Time constraints

Out of class activities:
Week 12: Finish interview guide and conduct interviews for assignment 4
Week 13: Read 5 research related to personal topic but not included in assignment 3
Week 14: Research final components needed for assignment 5 begin work on assignment 6
Week 15: No class hours – Thanksgiving Break!
Week 16: Finalize assignment 5 and 6, study for the exam

Exam guide: Read chapters 10, 11, 12 and 13 from the text. In addition to general course notes, specifically be familiar with grounded theory, folk versus cover terms, domain analysis, types of hypothesis, triangulation, forms of negative evidence, descriptive statistics, judgment errors, statistical tests and measures of variability, in addition be very familiar with the class notes from Unit VI.