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| <b>Course &amp; Session Number</b> | <b>SOWK 302 L06</b>   | <b>Classroom</b>      | Online   |
| <b>Course Name</b>                 | Research in Context Theme Course  |                       |  |
| <b>Dates and Time</b>              | Start of Classes: Monday, January 9, 2023<br>End of Classes: Wednesday, April 12, 2023<br>Dates and Time: Zoom sessions Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00pm MST (see section on Class Schedule below for full details)<br>Add/Drop/Withdrawal Dates: Please refer to the course-specific deadline in your <a href="#">Student Centre</a> <sup>1</sup> . |                       |  |
| <b>Instructor</b>                  | Christa Sato, MSW, BSW, BA, RSW   | <b>Office Hours</b>   | Tuesdays: 5:00-6:00pm MST (via Zoom) or by appointment |
| <b>UCalgary E-mail</b>             | <a href="mailto:clsato@ucalgary.ca">clsato@ucalgary.ca</a>  | <b>UCalgary Phone</b> | By email   |

**OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, RACIAL JUSTICE, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND DECOLONIZATION**

The Faculty of Social Work (FSW), University of Calgary (UCalgary), is committed to promoting and actualizing equity, racial justice, diversity, inclusion and decolonization. We affirm that diversity and uniqueness are enriching and valuable, and that they can strengthen our teaching, learning, research, scholarship, and community connections. We aim to foster an inclusive, thriving and equitable environment for our students, non-academic and academic staff, and community members. We take the stand that [equity](#) does not mean sameness in treatment of people, but rather requires measures and accommodations for diverse life experiences and circumstances to ensure that no one of a particular social group is disadvantaged, underrepresented or overlooked in all aspects of our work. We intend to address systemic inequities and compounded disadvantages due to intersectionality of social locations, particularly for those who are members of racialized communities, Indigenous peoples, Black peoples, persons with disabilities, migrant groups (including refugees and immigrants), 2SLGBTQ+ communities, linguistic minorities as well as those who have experienced socioeconomic, caregiving, religious, political, and/or cultural barriers to their education and employment. We also recognize, honour, and integrate into our work diverse perspectives, ways of knowing and doing, experiences, and strengths. An anti-oppressive lens, particularly intersectional, anti-colonial, anti-racist and decolonizing frameworks, will inform our work.

<sup>1</sup> In the Enrolled Courses table, under Deadlines, click on the Calendar icon by each course and the deadlines will appear.

Please refer to our full statement of [Our Commitment to Equity, Racial Justice, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization](#), the work of the faculty's [Anti-Black Racism Task Force](#), and the university's [Indigenous Strategy](#).

## SYLLABUS STATEMENT

This course offers an introduction to knowledge generation relevant to generalist social work practice. Foundational concepts and approaches of various research methodologies will be introduced as ways of knowledge building to inform practice and influence policy, particularly within rural, remote and Indigenous contexts. **Course Hours: 6 units; (6-0)**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Learners will be introduced to the core concepts of social work research through a variety of learning activities, including presentations, assigned readings, online discussion, exercises and assignments. They will examine the social, cultural, political and philosophical contexts of knowledge building, with particular attention being paid to concerns of gender, culture, race and power relations. Learners will further examine diverse experiences with knowledge building through various research methodologies.

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are expected to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement an alternative participation activity (e.g., watch the recordings, submit a brief reflection, and actively contribute to the follow-up online discussion).

There will be weekly synchronous Zoom sessions throughout the term (as indicated in the class schedule section).

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define and explain the basic concepts and vocabulary involved in research;
2. Demonstrate a beginning understanding of various knowledge-building paradigms, particularly the empirical paradigm, Indigenous ways of knowing, and emancipatory paradigm;
3. Identify and explore solutions to the ethical issues and challenges in social work research;
4. Develop and articulate critical understanding of the contexts and values in shaping social work research;
5. Describe contextually relevant research methodologies; and
6. Apply social work research knowledge and explore the use a variety of knowledge generation methods to advance professional practice, policy development, research, and service provision.

## LEARNING RESOURCES

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND/OR READINGS**

Textbook

Reid, C., Greaves, L., & Kirby, S. (2016). *Experience, research, social change: Critical methods* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). University of Toronto Press.

Please note, additional required readings will be posted in D2L throughout the semester.

## **LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

A D2L site is set up for this course, which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials. A laptop, desktop or mobile device with Internet access, microphone and speaker is required for D2L and Zoom access.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES**

SOWK 302 is one of the four foundation theme courses in the BSW Learning Circles Program. There are no pre-requisites required for this course. It is usually completed concurrently with Social Work 303: Practice with Individuals in Context.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

#### **Important Dates for Winter 2023**

- Start of Term: Tuesday, January 3, 2023
- End of Term: Friday, April 28, 2023
- Fee Deadline: Friday, January 27, 2023
- Alberta Family Day, no classes: Monday, February 20, 2023
- Good Friday, no classes: Friday, April 7, 2023
- Easter Monday, no classes: Monday, April 10, 2023
- Term Break: Sunday, February 19 – Saturday, February 25, 2023

#### **Class Schedule**

As a VLC course, learners will progress through the various learning modules that contain asynchronous (education at a learner's pace) and synchronous (education in real-time, i.e. live Zoom sessions) learning activities. The learning activities aim to promote inquiry-based learning and dialogues with instructors and co-learners. The inquiry-based learning approach honours learners' diverse ways of knowing, as well as their abilities to reflect on their lived experiences, to generate knowledge, and to critically reflect on social work research.

| <b>Module Dates</b> | <b>Module Topic and Required Readings</b>  | <b>Zoom Sessions (6 to 8pm MST)</b> | <b>Assignment Due Dates</b> |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| January 10          | General Orientation                        | January 10                          |                             |
| January 9 to 22     | Module 1: Knowledge Generation in Contexts | January 17                          |                             |

|                          |  |             |  |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|--|
|                          | <u>Readings</u><br>Textbook: Ch. 1, 3, 4, and 5  |             |  |
| January 23 to February 5 | Module 2: Indigenous, Feminist, and Participatory Research Perspectives<br><br><u>Readings</u><br>Textbook: Ch. 2<br>Additional readings posted in D2L | January 31  | Assignment 1 due January 23, 11:59pm MST           |
| February 6 to 18         | Module 3: Quantitative Research Methods<br><br><u>Readings</u><br>Textbook: Ch. 6, 7, and 8<br>Additional readings posted in D2L                       | February 7  | Assignment 2 (midterm) due February 6, 11:59pm MST |
| February 19 to 25        | Term Break   | No Classes  |  |
| February 26 to March 6   | Module 4: Quantitative Methods Analysis<br><br><u>Readings</u><br>Textbook: Ch. 9<br>Additional readings posted in D2L                                 | February 28 |  |
| March 7 to March 19      | Module 5: Qualitative Research Methods<br><br><u>Readings</u><br>Textbook: Ch. 6, 7, and 8<br>Additional readings posted in D2L                        | March 14    | Assignment 3 due March 19, 11:59pm MST             |
| March 20 to March 28     | Module 6: Qualitative Research Analysis<br><br><u>Readings</u><br>Textbook: Ch. 9<br>Additional readings posted in D2L                                 | March 21    | Assignment 2 (final) due March 27, 11:59 MST       |
| March 29 to April 5      | Module 7: Research Communication and Knowledge Dissemination<br><br><u>Readings</u><br>Textbook: Ch. 10<br>Additional readings posted in D2L           | April 4     |  |
| April 6 to April 12      | Module 8: Summary  | April 11    | Assignment 4 due April 14, 11:59pm MST             |

## ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND RELATED INFORMATION

### **GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS IN ONLINE CLASSES**

Students are expected to participate actively in all Zoom sessions. If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session) for your best learning experiences. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Unless advised (or agreed) otherwise by their instructors, video cameras should be turned on during class and students are expected to manage their microphones as required. All students are expected to behave in a professional manner during all Zoom sessions.

### **MEDIA RECORDING FOR ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING**

The instructor may use Zoom media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **ZOOM RECORDINGS OF ONLINE CLASSES**

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

## ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

### **ASSIGNMENT 1: Completing the TCPS CORE Ethics Tutorial (5%)**

**Due Date: January 23**

**Aligned Course Outcomes:** 1, 3

**Description:** The Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS) is a joint policy of Canada's three federal research agencies, namely the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The agencies require researchers to address ethical issues that arise in the course of research involving humans.

Learners will complete the online tutorial on research ethics, TCPS 2 CORE, which can be accessed at: <https://tcps2core.ca/welcome>. The tutorial takes approximately three hours to complete, though more time might be required for learners who wish to thoroughly peruse supplementary materials. Upon completion of the tutorial, each learner will be immediately awarded a completion certificate by the Panel on Research Ethics.

By the due date for this assignment, learners will submit their certificates of completion to the instructor via the SOWK 302 Dropbox in D2L and receive full marks. Those who fail to submit their certificates on the due date (by 11:59PM MST) will receive a zero for this assignment.

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**ASSIGNMENT 2: Situating Self in Research (20%)**  
**Due Date: February 6 (1st Post) and March 27 (2nd Post)**

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**Aligned Course Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, 4

**Description:** This individually written assignment will support learners to continually engage in self-reflexivity throughout the course. Learners will reflect on how their worldviews, beliefs, assumptions, social locations and related life experiences have guided their understandings of research and ethics. Learners will write two posts (one post at the midterm, and one post towards the end of the semester) to reflect on specific guiding questions. They will be expected to draw on and to integrate the readings and learning activities throughout this course, as well as the relevant materials from other courses. Learners will be responsible for editing and proofreading their own posts. While learners can maintain a personal tone, they will use proper APA formatting for citations. Each post will be between 750-1000 words (excluding references).

Detailed instruction for each reflective post, along with the grading criteria, will be posted on D2L. Assignment 2 will be submitted onto Dropbox via the D2L site.

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**ASSIGNMENT 3: Conducting a Literature Review (30%)**  
**Due Date: March 19**

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**Aligned Course Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Description:** A literature review offers both a descriptive summary and critical assessment of research on a previously studied topic. It can be as comprehensive as a systematic review or shorter in scope and resources (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.x>). A literature review informs an audience of the existing knowledge about a topic, field, and/or area of interest by summarizing, comparing, contrasting, and connecting findings and themes documented in the current scholarly and grey literature. It sets the context for a research study, points out the gap(s) in the existing knowledge, and often justifies the formation of a research question.

For this assignment, learners will complete a preliminary literature review on a topic of their choosing. This assignment will serve as the starting point for the final assignment (creating a research proposal). Learners will include at least seven journal articles on their topic of interest, and a seven-page literature review on the articles selected (page limit excludes references). A submitted literature review should include the following sections:

1. An introduction of the topic, along with a rationale for selecting the topic and the guiding questions for inquiry;
2. Search strategy;
3. A descriptive annotation of the selected publications; and
4. A critical assessment of research approaches, findings and gaps among the selected publications.

To help guide this assignment, learners are welcome to engage in the following steps:

1. Choose a social work topic;

2. Develop a rationale on how and why you have developed your interest in the topic;
3. Formulate an inquiry question that specifically describes what you would like to know about your topic;
4. Use the U of C library to search for and locate journals that include your topic's information;
5. Find articles, read the abstracts and skim the articles to determine if they correspond well to your topic AND inquiry question;
6. Follow steps of a rapid literature review:  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2914085/>. You may want to consider the following questions: How did the scholar(s) describe the methodology? Was it clear from the description how the methodology was implemented? What are the strengths of the methodology used in the study? What are the limitations of the methodology used in the study? How did the author(s) address the validity of the findings?;
7. Select at least 7 relevant journal articles that will inform your literature review;
8. Organize your articles by sorting and classifying their findings in a meaningful way, always considering your original topic and inquiry question. To help organize your thoughts, you may write a brief introduction to your subject of interest and research question; brief overview of your search strategy, including search terms and databases searched; critical annotations of 7 peer-reviewed publications that address your research question; and
9. Identify gaps of the literature review.

Detailed instruction for this assignment, along with the grading criteria, will be posted on D2L. Assignment 3 will be submitted onto Dropbox via the D2L site.

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**ASSIGNMENT 4: Developing a Research Proposal (45%)**  
**Due Date: April 14**

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**Aligned Course Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Description:** Building on their work from Assignments 1, 2 and 3, learners will develop a research proposal (eight to 10 pages, excluding references). They will submit Assignment 4 onto Dropbox via the D2L site. According to Reitsma-Street (2003), a research proposal is a “statement of intent to look into a phenomenon and a plan about how to conduct the search” (p. 1). It is a thoughtful, feasible plan that promotes curiosity and quality scholarship. Learners will address the following elements in their research proposals:

1. **Research Question and Rationale:** When writing your research question, consider the various contexts and the specific knowledge gap within your topic area. What would be the potential contributions of your research to the existing literature, social work practice and solutions to community issues?
2. **Theoretical Orientation:** What is your ontological and epistemological foundation? What theories have guided your thinking about your research and informed the development of your research question and research design?
3. **Research Design:** What is your chosen research methodology (i.e. quantitative, qualitative, mixed)? What are your methods for data collection and data analysis? What are the potential strengths and limitations in your research design?
4. **Ethical consideration:** What are the potential ethical issues in your proposed research? How will you address the identified ethical issues?

5. Knowledge dissemination and mobilization: How will you share your research findings? How will you ensure that your research will be used to inform changes in practice, programs, services and policies?

The detailed instruction for the research proposal, along with the grading criteria, will be posted on D2L. Assignment 4 will be submitted onto Dropbox via the D2L site.

## **ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION INFORMATION**

### **ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. These are part of the engagement grade, as outlined in the assessment components section above. Students are required to contact instructor in advance or within 24 hours of missing a Zoom session to arrange a make-up assignment.

### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

Submit all assignments electronically through their respective DropBox in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in Word or PDF format. Assignments should have a file name as follows: "Full name and assignment number" (e.g., Jane Smith Assignment 2). Assignments are due before midnight on their due date. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted."

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Late assignments will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING**

Assignments will be assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented and referenced in APA format. If you need writing support, please connect with the Student Success Centre, at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

It is expected that all work submitted in assignments is the student's own work, written expressly by the student for this particular course. Students are reminded that academic misconduct, including plagiarism, has serious consequences, as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **GRADING**



A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course. The University of Calgary [Undergraduate Grading System](#) and Faculty of Social Work Percentage Conversion will be used. This grading system overrides the grading system in D2L.

| Grade | Grade Point | Description  | Percentage Range |
|-------|-------------|--|------------------|
| A+    | 4.0         | Outstanding performance  | 95 - 100         |
| A     | 4.0         | Excellent performance  | 95 – 100         |
| A-    | 3.7         | Approaching excellent performance  | 90 – 94          |
| B+    | 3.3         | Exceeding good performance   | 85 – 89          |
| B     | 3.0         | Good performance   | 80 – 84          |
| B-    | 2.7         | Approaching good performance   | 75 – 79          |
| C+    | 2.3         | Exceeding satisfactory performance   | 70 – 74          |
| C     | 2.0         | Satisfactory performance   | 65 – 69          |
| C-    | 1.7         | Approaching satisfactory performance   | 60 – 64          |
| D+    | 1.3         | Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject | 55 – 59          |
| D     | 1.0         | Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject  | 50 – 54          |
| F     | 0.0         | Failure. Did not meet course requirements  | Below 50         |

**COURSE EVALUATION**

The instructor will seek student feedback at midterm to determine areas where students may require additional support and to create opportunities to better enhance students' learning experiences for the remainder of the course. Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University and Faculty of Social Work course evaluation forms. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

**ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED READINGS**

Additional suggested readings are available on D2L.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS**

**Professional Conduct**

As members of the University community, students and staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary's [Code of Conduct](#).

Students and staff are also expected to demonstrate professional behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. Consistent with the aims of the Social Work Program and the University of Calgary, all students and staff are expected to respect, appreciate, and encourage expression of diverse world views and perspectives; to offer their fellow community members unconditional respect and constructive feedback; and to contribute to building learning communities that promote individual and collective professional and personal growth. While critical thought and debate is valued in response to concepts and opinions shared in class, feedback must always be focused on the ideas or opinions shared and not on the person who has stated them.

Students and staff are expected to model behaviour in class that is consistent with our professional values and ethics, as outlined in the [Canadian Association for Social Workers, Code of Ethics](#) (2005) and the [Alberta College of Social Work Standards of Practice](#) (2019).

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS). SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. Please refer to the full policy on [Student Accommodations](#).

### **Research Ethics**

"If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the [CFREB Ethics Website](#) before beginning the assignment.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please refer to the [Integrity and Conduct](#) section in the University of Calgary Calendar.

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Copyright Legislation**

All students who use materials protected by copyright are expected to comply with the University of Calgary policy on [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright](#) and requirements of the [Copyright Act](#) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the [Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's [Sexual and Gender-based Violence Policy](#) guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances.

### **Other Important Information**

Please visit the [Registrar's website](#) for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information