I. PURPOSE: This class is an in-depth introduction to the process of conducting research. This introduction provides the essential context for the qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research courses.

II. OBJECTIVES: Instructional time, readings, and assignments should encompass both qualitative and quantitative issues, with roughly equal weight.

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:
1. Articulate the complexities of formulating a research question, including the role of theory in both quantitative and qualitative designs
2. Compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative research approaches, especially regarding their relevance to different types of research questions.
3. Identify considerations and rationale for methodological choice.
4. Describe the differences between experimental, quasi-experimental, and non experimental designs.
5. Identify various sampling procedures and their appropriateness for both qualitative and quantitative research.
6. Discuss measurement strategies, standards, and protocols, as they apply to both qualitative and quantitative designs.
7. Articulate and discuss the history, rationale, and standards for Human Subjects protection, including complexities of informed consent relative to vulnerable populations. Complete online KU Human Subjects tutorial.
8. Analyze and discuss ethical issues inherent in the conduct and dissemination of research.
9. Critique (identify strengths and weaknesses) qualitative and quantitative research research articles and studies relative to the above.

III. REQUIRED TOPICS:
The scientific approach to research and epistemology
Finding a research topic
Reviewing the literature
Ethical, legal, and human relations issues in social work research: protection of human subjects; collaborative research; authorship, publication, plagiarism, copyright; conflicts of interest; peer review; maintenance of confidentiality; appropriate research conduct and misconduct.
The use of theory
Quantitative and qualitative research designs
   Research questions and hypotheses
   Methods for data collection
   Concepts and measurement
   Pattern recognition and interpretation of data
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