COURSE TITLE: Research, Writing, and Information Literacy in the Behavioral Sciences

COURSE NUMBER: SOC 331

I. COURSE RATIONALE:

Students in the Behavioral Sciences are, by virtue of the kind of career employment they seek, expected to be knowledgeable in their field, use critical thinking in making decisions, and communicate ideas in written reports. This requires knowledge in evaluating information, differentiating between scholarly and popular works, interpreting research data, and understanding the writing requirements of various formats of written assignments.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:
Students will develop information literacy skills within the behavioral sciences. They will develop a proficiency at using behavioral science databases (i.e. PSYCHINFO, EBSCOHOST, PROQUEST, SOCINDEX or some similar such database resource) to locate empirical research and research review articles in the Behavioral Science area.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Identify key words to search and locate credible sources
A-2 Locate needed information effectively and efficiently
A-3 Frame a research question
A-4 Evaluate information resources
A-5 Evaluate information content
A-6 Communicate understanding of ethical and legal issues affecting the use of information through appropriate crediting of sources

GOAL B:
Students will demonstrate correct use of APA writing style, including formatting and use of language.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1 Format a term paper in APA style
B-2 Use citations in APA style
GOAL C:
Students will demonstrate critical thinking by evaluating arguments and ethical judgments.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- **C-1** Differentiate facts and opinions
- **C-2** Recognize errors in thinking
- **C-3** Identify errors in judgment such as double-standard, irrelevant criterion, hasty conclusions, unwarranted assumptions, oversimplification, and over-generalizing or stereotyping
- **C-4** Identify errors of reaction such as explaining away, shifting the burden of proof, attacking the person, and straw man

GOAL D:
Students will summarize and analyze scholarly and peer reviewed journal articles, and evaluate research methods used.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- **D-1** Summarize an article from a peer-reviewed journal in the Behavioral Sciences
- **D-2** Analyze theories and research methods used in scholarly publications

GOAL E:
Students will become familiar with how to conduct and write a literature review on a given topic.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- **E-1** Conduct an in-depth literature review on a specific topic using appropriate academic literature
- **E-2** Identify questions the literature seeks to answer
- **E-3** Critically appraise subject-specific literature for use in conducting a literature review
- **E-4** Write a literature review in accordance with APA style

GOAL F:
Students will explore writing tasks and research efforts required of Behavioral Science professionals in workplace settings:
Learning Outcomes: The student will:

F-1 Explore research and writing requirements of career professionals
F-2 Locate types of report writing required in the field
F-3 Make the connection between field notes, research writing, and scholarly journals
F-4 Articulate the ethical requirements of writing in the field