

# *Week 3 Items*

- I. Review of Ethical Issues*
- II. Overview of Research Process*
- III. Identifying Problems and Formulating  
Research Questions*
- IV. Article Databases for Social Work*

# ***I. Review of Ethical Issues***

- **Voluntary Participation**
- **Informed Consent**
- \* **No Harm/Distress to Participants**
- \* **Protect Subject's Privacy**
- \* **No Deception**
- \* **No Scientific Fraud or Misconduct**
- \* **Avoid Bias and Insensitivity**

# II. Overview: Research Process

## 1. Problem formulation

(including research questions, lit review)

## 2. Methodology

- Operationalization and measurement
- Study population and sampling
- Research design & data collection
- Data analysis plan

## 3. Implementation – Data collection

## 4. Data analysis

## 5. Dissemination



***III. IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS &  
FORMULATING RESEARCH  
QUESTIONS***

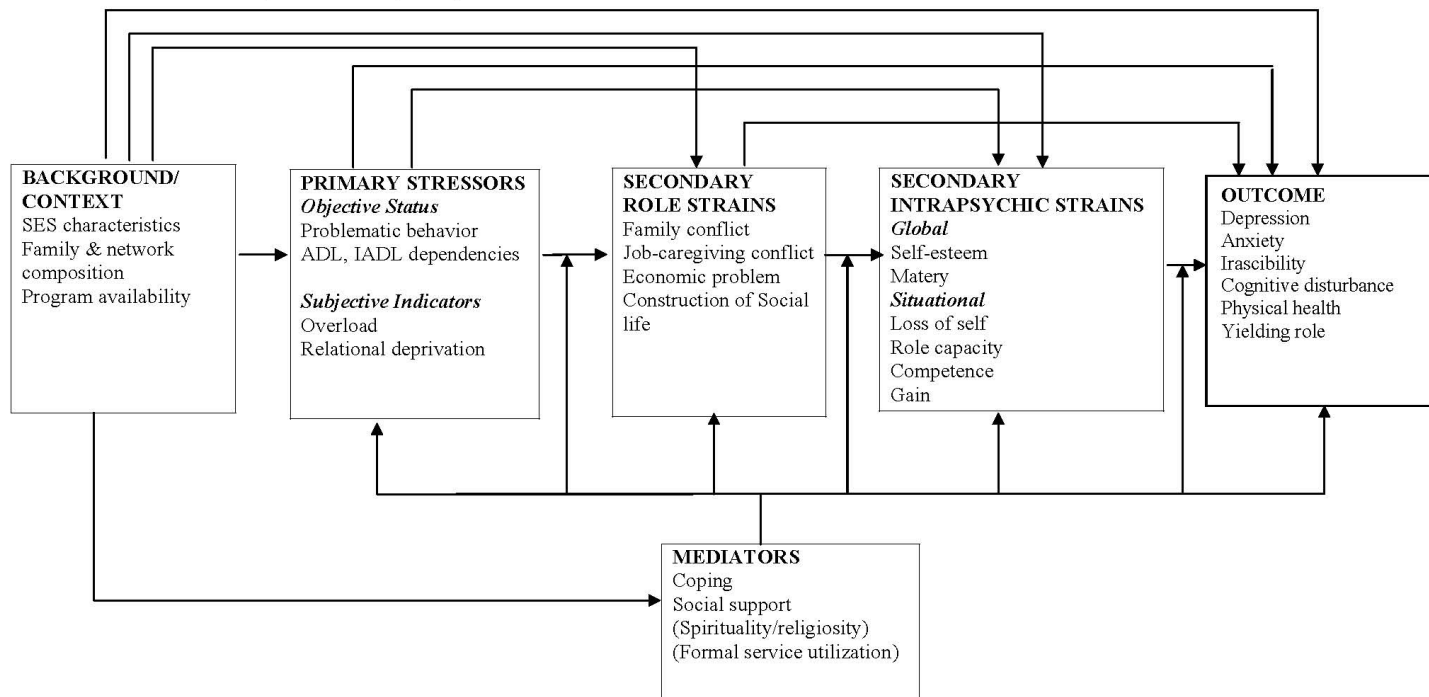
## *III. Problem Formulation*

### **1. Selecting a research problem**

- a) **Personal interest/experience**
  - Must demonstrate the scientific worth
  
- b) **Social Problems**
  
- c) **Testing theory**

# Stress-Process Model (Pearlin et al)

Stress-Process Model (Pearlin et al., 1990)



## *III. Problem Formulation*

### **1. Selecting a research problem**

- d) **Prior research**
  - Lit review is critical
  
- e) **Program evaluation**
  
- f) **Human service practice**
  - Behaviors of clients
  - Mode and process of practice

## *III. Problem Formulation*

### **1. Selecting a research problem**

- g) **Political considerations**
  - Political efficacy
  - Targeted funding
  - Power and minority status



### *III. Problem Formulation*

## **2. Shaping/Refining the Problem**

- a) **Conceptual development**
  - Narrow the focus of the concept

## *III. Problem Formulation*

### **2. Shaping/Refining the Problem**

#### **b) Review of literature**

- Familiarize with the current status of knowledge
- Learn how others have done on similar problems
- Need basic library utilization skills

## *III. Problem Formulation*

### **2. Shaping/Refining the Problem**

#### **c) Unit of analysis**

- Individual
- Group
- Organization
- Program

## *III. Problem Formulation*

### **3. Feasibility**

- a) Time constraints
- b) Financial considerations

# *A good research question...*

- is stated in the form of a question
- should express a relation between or among variables (clear independent and dependent variables)
- should be specific, rather than vague and general
- should be relevant to social work practice, theory and/or policy
- should be objective, unbiased, non-judgmental

# *Examples of Research Questions*

- \* What is the relationship between the level of emotional distress experienced by child sexual abuse victims and various characteristics of the abuse experience?
- \* Is sex-role orientation a predictor of contraceptive behavior among adolescent females?
- \* How do spousal differences in proximity to the immigration experience and different levels of acculturation affect marital satisfaction in Mexican American married couples?

# IV. Article Databases for Social Work

- Article Databases
- Online tutorials

# ***NEXT TWO WEEKS:***

***HOW TO REVIEW LITERATURE***

***OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCING RESEARCH  
PROCESS***

***IMPORTANT TERMS***