**Assignment 2: Research Paper (30% of Course Grade - 30 pts)**

Students are expected to write an individual final paper addressing an issue of public health importance relating to adolescents with the following components:

 (1) Clearly define the adolescent health problem or issue and address why it is of significance to the field of social work. (Describe the issue, who is affected, incidence/prevalence, costs – both financial and other – associated with the issue, why action is needed)

(2) Critically review school, family, and community programs and policies designed to prevent the health problem or promote health issue currently. • Assess if the strategies have been evaluated with rigorous research designs. • Determine the results of these strategies. Were they effective? What doesn’t work?

(3) Employ peer reviewed literature and use mainly primary sources as references (e.g., not literature reviews or web-based articles)

 (4) Present an evidence-based intervention that is derived from your understanding of the problem and the published intervention research (please justify your selection of an intervention) and discuss implications for prevention. You should include a description of your proposed policy or program: rationale, design, intended audience, implementation, anticipated outcomes, and evaluation methods.

This is to be a professional research paper with accurate APA citations (minimum of 5 – 7 references required) from recent professional literature. Use referencing format per the American Psychological Association format (5th edition or later), which can be found online. Papers should be 8-10 double-spaced pages.