Class Exercise #1:
Operational Definitions and Measurement Error

If your proposed study includes a quantitative portion, consider the dependent variable in your proposed study and consider the questions below.

Each person in your group will discuss their variable.

1) Provide a brief conceptual definition of the variable:

2) Among the three ways to operationally define a variable (self-report, observation, and available records), what do you think might be most appropriate for this variable and why?

3) Identify potential sources of measurement error in using the measurement identified in #2:
Class Exercise #2: Measurement Class Exercise

Directions: Take a moment to complete the questionnaire below. Then for each variable, identify if it is categorical or continuous, and then identify if it is nominal, ordinal, interval, or ratio.

1. Sex (please check one): Male Female

2. Age (in years) _______ years

3. What is your race/ethnicity? ______________

4. Are you in the Full-Time or Part-Time MSW program (please check one)?
   - Full-Time
   - Part-Time

5. How many hours a week do you spend on your homework assignments?
   _______ hours

6. How many homework assignments are you given in a typical week (please check one)?
   - None
   - 1 or 2 assignments
   - 3 or 4 assignments
   - 5 or more assignments

7. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being low and 5 being high) how would you rate your stress level (please circle one)?
   
   1 2 3 4 5
   Low High

For each variable, identify if it is categorical or continuous, and then identify if it is nominal, ordinal, interval, or ratio.

- Sex: Age:
- Ethnicity: Full-Time or Part-Time status:
- Number of hours per week on homework assignments: Stress Level
- Number of homework assignments given in a typical week: