

**BIO 766 Selected Topics – RESEARCH ETHICS
FALL 2012 COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Dr. Courtney Kurtz
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Office Hours: W 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Th 9-10 a.m.
Also by appointment, as needed

Course Meeting Times/Place: MF 11:30-12:30, HS 330D

Course Objectives: This course is designed as a discussion-based course on research ethics. As graduate students, a working knowledge of ethical issues as well as a strong understanding of how to handle these issues is an essential part of your training. The subjects we will discuss in this course are based on courses designed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). We will study topics by reading and presenting articles on current issues in research ethics as well as discussing case studies generated by the NIH. Topics we will address are listed below.

- Scientific Integrity
- The Research Record
- Publication & Authorship
- Peer Review
- Falsification of Data
- Plagiarism
- Student-Mentor Relationship
- Intellectual Property
- Conflicts of Interest
- Collaborative Science
- Use of Animal Subjects
- Use of Human Subjects

E-mail Correspondance & D2L: E-mail communication and D2L will be used frequently throughout the semester to communicate between instructor and students. E-mails constitute legal, official University communication. **You are responsible for checking your e-mail and D2L on a regular basis.** Not checking your e-mail is not an excuse for performance problems in the class. Contact Academic Computing for assistance with email and D2L.

Attendance Policy: This is a graduate-level course. As such, you are expected to attend every session throughout the semester. Any absences must be discussed with me at least one week prior to the anticipated absence. **If you miss one session with an unexcused absence your grade will be reduced by one full letter grade.**

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are welcome in this course. Please contact your lecture instructor in the first week of class so that we can discuss necessary accommodations.

Academic Honesty Policies: Policies are clearly defined at this institution and will be followed. Students are referred to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Student Discipline Code as detailed in specific provisions of Chapter 14 of the State of Wisconsin Administrative Code. Any student(s) found in violation of any aspect of the above Code will receive a sanction as

detailed in UWS 14.05 and 14.06. Examples of violations include: looking at another student's exam or answer sheet and copying the answers during an exam, talking or whispering to another student during an exam, receiving text messages during an exam on an electronic device or listening to answers or information recorded on an electronic device via earphones during an exam. Cheating on an exam (including looking at someone else's paper) at a MINIMUM leads to zero on that exam, with no opportunity for a make-up or extra credit. A second offense is an F in the course and a report to Dean of Students.

Common Courtesy: Ringing cellular phones are a distraction to the instructor and others in the class. Turn off all cell phones, pagers and MP3 players before class. Keep them in your backpack or purse until class is finished. No cell phones, PDAs, headphones or other electronic devices will be allowed out during an exam.

Grading: Grading for the course will be based on several criteria. These include discussion participation, presentation of current articles on research or biomedical ethics, leadership of a discussion on the articles you present, written evaluation of assigned case studies and final exam.

Discussion participation – Due to the nature of this course, participation in all discussions is required. In order to adequately participate in the discussions, you must read the case studies, articles or other material before coming to class. If you do not participate in any discussion during a given class session (hour-long class), you will lose 20 participation points for that session. You can lose up to 200 pts from your final grade due to lack of participation.

Current articles presentation & discussion leader – Each student is required to present two news (scientific or layperson) articles on a subject related to research or scientific ethics. Powerpoint is not required for the presentation. If you would like to use Powerpoint, please let me know at least 1 week in advance. You can use the whiteboard if you choose. Each presentation should be approximately 10-15 minutes long describing the issue, the ethical conflict and what, if any, action was taken. After the presentation, the student is responsible for leading a 10-15 minute discussion of the case/topic. Articles must be submitted to Dr. Kurtz at least 5 days before the presentation date as a pdf file or website that can be distributed to the rest of the class. The student leader should come with a short list of 2-3 questions to get the discussion started. Each student presentation is worth 100 points – 50 points for the article choice and presentation and 50 points for the leadership of a discussion.

Case studies – Each week, we will be delving into a new area of research ethics. Two or three case studies for each of these subjects are posted on D2L. Students are responsible for reading both case studies before class and picking one on which to write a short (< 1 page) discussion of the ethical issues at hand and what they think should be done. Students are responsible for one case study evaluation per week and each is worth 25 points. Case studies are due at the beginning of the session during which we are discussing the case study.

Final exam – During the final week of the semester, a final exam will be given. This exam will include short answer and essay questions. Essay questions will involve evaluation of case studies and topics that have been discussed during the course. More information will be given in the second half of the semester.

Grades will be posted on D2L throughout the semester. Due to privacy concerns, I will NOT give grades out over the phone or reveal grades in phone messages.

Grades will be based on the following:

Discussion participation	200 pt
Current articles presentation (2)	100 pt (50 pt each)
Current articles discussion leader (2)	100 pt (50 pt each)
Case studies evaluations (12)	300 pt (25 pt each)
Final essay exam	100 pt

Total Points Possible:

 800 pts

The grading scale is:

93-100%	744-800 pt	A
90-92%	720-743 pt	A-
87-89%	696-719 pt	B+
83-86%	664-695 pt	B
80-82%	640-663 pt	B-
77-79%	616-639 pt	C+
73-76%	584-615 pt	C
< 73	< 584 pt	F

Tentative Course Outline:

Date	Activity	Topic
F 9/7	Introduction	General Research Ethics
M 9/10 F 9/14	Case Studies Discussion Introduction to Presentation & Discussion	Scientific Integrity
M 9/17 F 9/21	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	The Research Record
M 9/24 F 9/28	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Publication & Authorship
M 10/1 F 10/5	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Peer Review
M 10/8 F 10/12	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Falsification of Data
M 10/15 F 10/19	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Plagiarism
M 10/22 F 10/26	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Mentor-Trainee Relationship
M 10/29 F 11/2	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Intellectual Property
M 11/5 F 11/9	Case Studies Discussion NO CLASS	Conflicts of Interest
M 11/12 F 11/16	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Collaborative Science
M 11/19 F 11/23	Current Issues Presentation & Discussion NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	N/A
M 11/26 F 11/30	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Use of Animal Subjects
M 12/3 F 12/7	Case Studies Discussion Current Issues Presentation & Discussion	Use of Human Subjects
M 12/10 F 12/14	FINAL EXAM FINAL EXAM	