

**University of Florida  
College of Public Health & Health Professions  
PHC 7427  
Ethics in Population Science  
Summer A, 2019  
HPNP G-109  
Thursdays 11:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

Canvas Course Website: [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu)

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Office Hours: By appointment only  
Preferred Course Communications: email

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**Prerequisites** Advanced degree, PhD candidacy or permission of the instructor.

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## **PURPOSE AND OUTCOME**

### **Course Overview**

This is an introductory course in ethics for those enrolled in graduate programs in epidemiology, other health-related programs, or research-intensive graduate programs, providing students with exposure to the DHHS- and NIH-mandated curriculum in the Responsible Conduct of Research. Ethical principles and frameworks for analysis will be taught to help students develop their own ethical reasoning. Instruction in standards for accountability, and sanctions for violating those standards, will be given. The dynamic interplay between mandated regulatory standards, professional ethical conduct codes, University policies and personal values will be illustrated through case studies. The course will combine didactics with case studies and will integrate web-based teaching tools.

### **Relation to Program Outcomes**

This is the required ethics course and course in responsible research conduct for PhD and MSE students.

### **Course Objectives and/or Goals**

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss at least two ethical theories and their application to research conduct.
2. Describe the federal definition of research misconduct and possible sanctions for misconduct and the UF responsible conduct policies, procedure for reporting misconduct and investigating misconduct.
3. Exhibit highly developed ethical reasoning skills in an analysis of a case of questionable research conduct.
4. Describe questionable research conduct and responsible research conduct in relation to study design, implementation, dissemination of findings and peer review of grants and manuscripts.

### **Instructional Methods**

In-person and asynchronous online components will be used to discuss cases and principles.

## DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

### Topical Outline/Course Schedule ALL READINGS SHOWN BELOW ARE REQUIRED.

Date	Topic(s)	Reading or Instructional Material
May 15	Case	Willowbrook and Diversity
	Ethical frameworks	Required Text (Fostering Integrity) Chapters 1 and 2 SFNO Framework. James Dubois. Handout given in class.
	Regulations and professional standards of practice and research	<a href="http://www.acepidemiology.org/policystmts/EthicsGuide.pdf">http://www.acepidemiology.org/policystmts/EthicsGuide.pdf</a>  Last J. (1996). Chapter 3: Professional Standards of Conduct for Epidemiologists. In: Coughlin SS, Beauchamp TL. Ethics and Epidemiology. New York: Oxford University Press.  Salerno J, Hlaing WW, Weiser T Striley C, Schwartz L, Angulo FJ, Neslund VS. Emergency response in a global health crisis: epidemiology, ethics, and Ebola application. Annals of Epidemiology. 2016; 26:234-237.  Tansey CM, Herridge MS, Heslegrave RJ. A framework for research ethics review during public emergencies. Canadian Medical Association. 2010;182(14):1533-1537.  Menikoff J, Kaneshiro J, Pritchard I. The Common Rule, updated. New England Journal of Medicine.2017;376(3): 613-615. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1700736  The new Common Rule is available here: <a href="https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-19/html/2017-01058.htm">https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-19/html/2017-01058.htm</a>
	Assignment	Assignment 1 and 2 due each week.
May 23	Case	Kormak
	Research misconduct vs. research with integrity	Required Text (Fostering Integrity) Chapter 7  Kornfeld DS, Titus SL. Ethics: More research won't crack misconduct. Nature. 2017;548(7665):31. <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28770833">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28770833</a>
	Human Subjects Research (Consent, Recruiting, Enrolling)	Ethics in Clinical Research <a href="http://clinicalcenter.nih.gov/recruit/ethics.html">http://clinicalcenter.nih.gov/recruit/ethics.html</a>  Required Text (Steneck, 2007) Chapter 1,2 and 3  Striley CLW, Callahan C, Cottler LB. Enrolling, retaining, benefiting participants in intervention research. Journal of Empirical Human Research Ethics. 2008; 3(3):19-25.
	Cases	Student case presentations
	Assignments	1, 2, 3 due.
May 30	Case	Joseph Biederman
	Data management	Required Text (Steneck, 2007) Chapter 6
	Conflict of interest	Required Text (Steneck, 2007) Chapter 5  Striley, C.W. (2011). A review of current ethical concerns and challenges in substance use disorder research. Current Opinion in Psychiatry, 24(3), 186-190.
	Privacy	Science January 2015 Vol. 347, Issue 6221 (Selected)
	Cases	Student case presentations
	Assignment	1 and 2, if scheduled 4

June 6	Cases Guatemala  Anil Potti	Paul C, Brookes B. The Rationalization of Unethical Research: Revisionist Accounts of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and the New Zealand "Unfortunate Experiment". Am J Public Health. 2015 Oct;105(10):e12-9.doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2015.302720. Epub 2015 Aug 13.  Rob Stein (October 1, 2010). "U.S. apologizes for newly revealed syphilis experiments done in Guatemala". Washington Post. <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/01/AR2010100104457.html?hpid=topnews">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/01/AR2010100104457.html?hpid=topnews</a> .  Required Text (Fostering Integrity) Appendix D.
	Collaboration	Required Text (Steneck, 2007) Chapter 8
	Mentoring and Being a Mentee	Striley, CW. A Stage Model to Help Promote Mentoring for Responsible Research Conduct. (2014). Office of Research Integrity Newsletter. June.  Cottler LB, Flynn P., et al., (2009). Mentoring: A Guide for Drug Abuse Researchers. Tips for Mentors and Mentees. NIDA Publication 09-5770. Order from: <a href="http://drugabuse.gov/mentoringguide/">http://drugabuse.gov/mentoringguide/</a>
	Cases	Student case presentations
	Assignments	1 and 2, if scheduled 4
June 13	Case	The Lab
	Authorship and Plagiarism	Required Text (Steneck, 2007) Chapter 9  Reich ES. Self-plagiarism case prompts calls for agencies to tighten rules. Nature. 2010; 468: 745
	Whistleblowing  Restitution	Kornfeld DS, Titus SL. Ethics: More research won't crack misconduct. Nature. 2017 Aug 2;548(7665):31. doi: 10.1038/548031a. PMID: 28770833  Bouter LM, Hendrix S. Both Whistleblowers and the Scientists They Accuse Are Vulnerable and Deserve Protection. Account Res. 2017;24(6):359-366. doi: 10.1080/08989621.2017.1327814. Epub 2017 May 8.PMID: 28481674  Kalichman M. Whistleblowing. Resources for Research Ethics Education. 2001. Available at: <a href="https://nationalethicscenter.org/resources/7418">https://nationalethicscenter.org/resources/7418</a>  Mervis J. After the fall. Science, 2016; 354:408-412.
	Peer review and Predatory publishers	Required Text (Steneck, 2007) Chapter 10  Pulla P. In India, elite institutes in shady journals. Science. 2016; 354:1511-1512.
	Animal Research	Required Text (Steneck, 2007) Chapter 4
	Cases	Student case presentations
Assignments	1 and 2, if scheduled 4	
June 20	<b>Catch up needed topics from above</b>	<b>No class. Online ONLY</b>  <b>Final Lecture</b>

### Course Materials and Technology

Required (both freely available):

1) Steneck, N. (2007). **ORI Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research**. Washington, DC: Office of Government Printing Office. Free download from multiple web sites, including:  
<http://ori.hhs.gov/documents/rcintro.pdf>

2) National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. **Fostering Integrity in Research**. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi:<https://doi.org/10.17226/21896>. Free download from  
<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/21896/fostering-integrity-in-research>

All additional readings will be available for download on CANVAS or through a provided internet link.

### Additional Resources

To help find possible cases:

The Scientist, for instance <https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/nature-science-retractions-connected-to-research-misconduct-65735>

Retraction Watch, <https://retractionwatch.com/>

The Office for Research Integrity, [https://ori.hhs.gov/content/case\\_summary](https://ori.hhs.gov/content/case_summary)

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

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## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

### Assignments and Grading

Assign-ment #	Requirement	Date Due	Criteria for Grading
	<b>Choose a particular public health problem to complete the assignments. With instructor permission, you can change topics.</b>		
1	Class participation. Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions AND by posting to the class listserv. Both should reflect writings from assignment 2.	NA	Pass = adequate participation
2	Each student is responsible for tracking cases in class. Upload one paragraph summarizing the cases and what you learned at the end of class time. When time, professor will allocate class time to talking about this with peers.	Bi-weekly	Pass = Students attend 90% of classes and exhibit developed ethical thinking in writings.
3	Regulations and standards. Student should bring the regulations, professional standards and policies that govern ethical conduct of research and practice in their chosen field, subject and area and that govern their institution and practice setting (if relevant)	By May 23	Pass= Gathered information and brought to class to share
4	Case Presentation. Students should choose a case from their own field and subject of interest for presentation to the class. The case presentation should cover: a timeline of alleged events; all facts known; stakeholders;	Varies	Pass = Presentation covered all required elements

	germane norms, values, regulations and ethical standards; considered and possible solutions		
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This course is graded Pass/Fail. Pass/Fail grades do not affect GPA points. For greater detail on the meaning of grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar's Grade Policy regulations at:  
<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **Policy Related to Make up Work**

Please note: Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

### **Policy Related to Required Class Attendance**

All faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT**

### **Expectations Regarding Course Behavior**

As a classroom of scholars and a learning community, the instructor will treat students with respect and expects respect in return. The classroom climate will be supportive, encouraging and open. To this end, no one should be taking calls or texts or using their laptops for other purposes than taking notes while the class is in session, except in the case of emergency. Electronic items must be turned off if they appear to detract from classroom discussion and attention. Please listen attentively; participation is required. When opinions differ, please listen first, and then prepare to comment. If you feel you have been treated disrespectfully by any member of the scholastic community involved in this course, please bring this to the instructor's attention privately for remediation.

### **Communication Guidelines**

Communications on-line or in-person must reflect integrity and respect.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

**“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”**

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

**“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”**

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For

additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

### **Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations will be used to make specific improvements to the course and teaching style, assignments, and expectations. Evaluations are used to in faculty tenure and promotion decisions. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Policy Related to Guests Attending Class:**

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are not permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy: <http://facstaff.php.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

### **Counseling and Student Health**

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:

Alachua County Crisis Center:

(352) 264-6789

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

### **Inclusive Learning Environment**

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: [www.multicultural.ufl.edu](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu)

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