Syllabus

Learning objectives

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the policies regulating research at land grant universities (LGUs) and the ethical principles on which these policies are based.

The course will fulfill its objectives if, after completing it, students have the ability to explain:

1) The research mission of land grant universities;

2) Ethical principles supporting research policies;
   (a) What is ethics? Interests, harms, choices, customs, science, law, professional codes;
   (b) Four ethical principles and their justifications;
   (c) A method for analyzing ethical arguments and making decisions;

3) Policies regulating research;
   (a) Mentoring, and under-represented minorities and women in research;
   (b) Use of humans in research;
   (c) Use of animals in research;
   (d) Research misconduct, and appropriate responses, including whistleblowing;
   (e) Authorship and peer review;
   (f) Intellectual property;
   (g) Conflicts of interest and commitment; collaborative research;
   (h) Proper experimental design, data collection, and statistical interpretation;

4) The importance of life-long learning (ability to find updated information on policies).
Required Texts:
All required readings are online at: www.chass.ncsu.edu/ethics/langure/Corecourse.htm

Credit Hours, Grading, Attendance, Punctuality:
1 credit, S/U grading. Attendance is mandatory, and punctuality is encouraged. To receive a passing grade, the student must have no unexcused absences, complete all assignments on time and participate significantly in class discussions

Prerequisites:
Graduate standing. Other students may enroll with consent of instructor.

Format:
The course will be structured as a seminar. The first session will begin with an overview of the topic by the instructor. The majority of the balance of sessions will begin with students completing online readings and quizzes, and then participating actively in seminar-style meetings.

Assignments:
The instructor will provide required reading material. Assignments will be given out in class and on the web site and will include reading from the current literature. All students must complete assignments #1, 2, and 3 below. If applicable, they must also complete #4.

1. ATTEND SEMINAR: On Fri., Oct. 27, 3:30-5:00, Faculty Senate Room 2320 DH Hill Library. If unable to do so, attend one departmental seminar listed in Seminar Series.

2. WRITE 6 QUESTIONS. Working with another student, write a total of six multiple choice questions for the online readings. Passages will be assigned. The purpose of this assignment is to develop research skills in cognitive evaluation, as explained here:
http://tep.uoregon.edu/resources/assessment/multiplechoicequestions/blooms.html

When writing questions follow guidelines in "Practical Suggestions," here:
http://tep.uoregon.edu/resources/assessment/multiplechoicequestions/practicalsuggestions.html

3. CERTIFY YOURSELF IN HUMAN SUBJECTS: Complete the NC State tutorial and notify the instructor by email when you have finished it: NC State Basic Training for Personnel Involved in Human Research

4. CERTIFY YOURSELF IN ANIMAL SUBJECTS (AS APPLICABLE): If you are
using or may in the future use animals in research must complete the NC State tutorial and notify the instructor by email when you have finished it: NC State Basic Training for Personnel Involved in Animal Research

Course Web Site: www.chass.ncsu.edu/ethics/langure/Corecourse.htm

Disabilities Accommodations:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss/

For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/hat/current/appendix/appen_k.html

Academic Integrity:

The NCSU Student Code of Conduct (www.fis.ncsu.edu/ncsulegal/codeof.htm) covers all work done in this course. Any suspected violations will be promptly reported. Academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

Useful Web Sites:

LANGURE core course: chass.ncsu.edu/ethics/langure/Corecourse.htm
NC State Ethics Program: www.chass.ncsu.edu/ethics
Ethics Updates: ethics.sandiego.edu/index.html
Ethics Center for Engineering & Science: /onlineethics.org/reseth/index.html

Assistance with speaking and writing

The Writing and Speaking Tutorial Services tutors offer free, one-on-one tutorial services. Bring any piece of speaking or writing at any stage in the development process to get help with brainstorming, topic development, thesis construction, organization, drafting, editing, presentation skills, and more. More information available online at: http://www.ncsu.edu/tutorial_center/writespeak/index.htm or at 513-7829.
Schedule

Pre-8/29  PRE-TEST (OPTIONAL)

8/29  3:00  Introduction to course; Introduction to research at land grant universities
      4:00  Introduction to ethics; Research misconduct

9/5  3:00  Egoism and the virtues; and Professional codes
         Read:  Lecture 1, "Research at LGUs" at:
             www.chass.ncsu.edu/langure/ResearchmissionLGUs.htm
             Lecture 2, "Ethical principles supporting policies," and
             Lecture 3, "Four ethical principles, Parts 1 and 2:  Egoism & the virtues"
      4:00  Utilitarianism and moral rights
         Read:  Lecture 3, "Parts 3 and 4:  Utilitarianism; and Moral rights"

9/12  3:00  Making ethical decisions: a method
         Read:  Lecture 4: "A method for making ethical decisions"
      4:00  Mentoring; and Women and under-represented groups
         Read:  M. King, "The Mentoring of Graduate Students"
             www.chass.ncsu.edu/ethics/inst_mod/mentoring.pdf
             B. Alston-Mills and P. Shumaker, "Women and under-represented groups"

9/19  3:00  Intellectual property; and conflicts of interests
         Read:  H. Schaffer and J. Taylor, "Intellectual Property"
      4:00  Experimental design and statistical interpretation
         Read:  L. Nelson, “Responsible Use of Statistical Methods”
             www.chass.ncsu.edu/ethics/inst_mod/ethical_issues_in_statistics.pdf
         Complete NC State tutorial, “Conflicts of Interest”
             http://www.ncsu.edu/sparcs/tutorial/intro.php

9/26  3:00  Use of humans and animals  (Complete NC State tutorials)
      4:00  Authorship and peer review
         Read:  J. Wilson, “Responsible Authorship and Peer Review” at:
             www.chass.ncsu.edu/ethics/inst_mod/authorship.pdf

10/3  No class  --  Attend Oct. 27 seminar, 3:30-5:00, or a departmental seminar

10/10  3:00  Lifelong learning, finding updated information
      4:00  Course review and evaluation

Post-10/10  POST-TEST (optional)