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Issues in the Responsible Conduct of Research (VME 6767)
Spring 2022
Class Time: Wednesdays 3-5 pm
Location: Veterinary Academic Building, V3-114

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Instructors:

Alice Lee, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVM (Course Coordinator)
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Office hours: Immediately following class, or by appointment (Veterinary Academic Building, V2-154)

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Course Description:

This course covers ethical considerations and best practices in research. Topics include scientific misconduct, safety, data management and bias, human and animal subjects, conflict of interest, professionalism, and peer review. It is designed based on the recommendations of the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, with the format being a combination of lecture, discussion, case study, and group exercises. *Attendance is required for fulfillment of NIH/NSF grant requirements – all mentors must agree to allow their trainees to attend, including residents and fellows.*

Course Objectives:

Through active participation, students will develop a fundamental understanding of what constitutes ethical scientific behavior, misconduct, and compliance with respect to the humane use of animals and ethical use of human subjects. The course is designed to foster skills that maximize collegiality and introduce students to best mentoring practices.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the three components of scientific misconduct.
2. Compare and contrast scientific misconduct and unethical research behavior.
3. Explain the principles for ethical use of animals.
4. Explain the purpose of the Institutional Review Board and situations where IRB approval is required.
5. Demonstrate how to ethically assign authorship.
6. Define conflict of interest at the university, state, and federal levels.
7. Demonstrate skills in mentorship and collegiality.

Grading:

Satisfactory/unsatisfactory. In order to obtain a passing grade, students must (1) attend all sessions unless otherwise excused, (2) complete all readings, assignments, and quizzes, and (3) actively participate in discussions and group exercises. Grades will be changed only when an error has been made.

Attendance Policy and Class Expectations:

Attendance is expected and will be recorded to meet federal requirements. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation; additional information can be found at https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/. Students are expected to complete assignments and quizzes by the posted due dates in Canvas. If, for reasons beyond their control, a student cannot meet a due date, the student should immediately notify the course

coordinator to explain the situation. Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate-level course. Postings, assignments, and discussions must be constructive, appropriate, and respectful of others' viewpoints.

Required Readings:

All required readings will be made available through Canvas.

Recommended Materials:

Students seeking additional information on this topic are encouraged to read "ORI Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research" by Nicholas H. Steneck, PhD, available online at https://ori.hhs.gov/ori-introduction-responsible-conduct-research.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	SLO	Instructor	Hours	Assignments/Quizzes
1	Introduction: What Are Scientific Ethics	1-4	Lee	2	None
2	Scientific Misconduct vs Unethical Behavior	1-2	Lee	2	Group problem set; misconduct quiz
3	Human Experimentation and IRB Fundamentals	4	Lee	1	IRB training; data de-identification quiz
	Animal Experiments and Ethical Use Issues	3	Stern	1	Reflection on article; IACUC training
4	Data Management and Data Manipulation	1-2	Lee	2	Data reporting assignment
5	Authorship and Plagiarism	1,5	Lee	1	None
	Biological and Environmental Safety	2	Lee	1	Pathogen/biomedical waste training
6	Peer Review, Mentorship and Collegiality	2,5,7	Lee	1	Individual development plan
	Conflict of Interest	2,6	Lee	1	COI training
7	Final Group Exercise	1-7	Lee	3	None

Students Requiring Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center at https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Student Evaluation of Instruction:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are publicly available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Honesty Policy:

UF students are bound by the Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The honor code is found in full at: https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/.

In-Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Health and Wellness Resources:

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit https://umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit https://counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit https://shcc.ufl.edu/.
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services:* For prevention services focused on optimal well-being, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/ or call 352-273-4450.