

Issues in the Responsible Conduct of Research

VME 6767 (Section 17128)

Class Periods: Wednesdays, Periods 8-9, 3:00-4:55 pm

Location: Veterinary Academic Building, Hall A

Academic Term: Fall 2024

Course Coordinator & Instructor:

Alice Lee, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVM

alice.lee@vetmed.ufl.edu

(352) 294-8664

Office hours: Immediately following class, or by appointment (Veterinary Academic Building, V2-154)

Other Instructors:

Adam Stern, DVM, Dipl. ACVP

adamstern@ufl.edu

(352) 294-4077

Course Description:

Presentation and discussion of issues; guiding principles and potential pitfalls (1 credit). 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 Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites:

Not applicable.

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:

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.

Materials and Supply Fees:

Not applicable.

Required Textbooks and Software:

Not applicable. 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>. Please keep in mind that some regulations have changed since this book was published in 2007, so information may differ from what is presented in class.

Course Schedule:

Date	Topic	Instructor	Hours	Assignments/Quizzes
9/4	Introduction: What Are Scientific Ethics	Lee	2	None
9/11	Research Misconduct vs Unethical Behavior	Lee	2	Group problem set; misconduct quiz
9/18	Data Management and Data Manipulation	Lee	2	Data reporting assignment
9/25	Human Subjects and IRB Fundamentals	Lee	2	IRB or IACUC training; animal use assignment
	Animal Experiments and Ethical Use	Stern		
10/2	Authorship and Plagiarism	Lee	2	None
	Biological and Lab Safety			
10/9	Peer Review, Mentorship and Collegiality	Lee	2	COI training
	Conflict of Interest			
10/16	Final Group Exercise	Lee	3	None

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy:

Attendance is mandatory 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 in [Attendance Policies](#). Absent students may be required to complete a make-up assignment related to the missed lecture(s). 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, they should immediately contact the course coordinator to request an extension. Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate-level course. Postings, assignments, and discussions must be professional, constructive, and respectful of others’ viewpoints.

Grading Policy:

Satisfactory/unsatisfactory. In order to obtain a satisfactory grade, students must (1) attend all sessions unless excused by the coordinator, with no more than two absences, (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.

Students Requiring Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with the coordinator and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance](#) on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. 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 [here](#).

University Honesty Policy:

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The [Student Honor Code and Conduct Code](#) (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy:

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS). Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

Academic Resources

[E-learning technical support](#), 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

[Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

[Library Support](#), Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#), 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

[Student Complaints Campus](#)

[On-Line Students Complaints](#)