Course description:

The purpose of this seminar is to examine ethical issues that arise in the conduct of psychological research. Issues covered will include some that are common to all sciences (e.g., scientific integrity, data manipulation, intellectual property) as well as those more specific to psychological research (e.g., protection of and respect for diverse human and nonhuman research participants).

Course objectives:

Students will gain an appreciation of the societal context in which psychological research is conducted, and will deepen their understanding of the principle that to do research well means to do research ethically.

Grading requirements and expectations:

25% discussion questions for each class period

- Students will be expected to submit an original discussion question based on the reading by noon the day before the seminar meets. These student-generated DQs will be used to guide discussion in class.
- Students are expected to submit DQs for 10 of the 11 class periods in Weeks 3 – 13; student decides which week to skip without penalty
- DQs will be graded on a 3-point basis (3 points = original/insightful; 2 = satisfactory; 1 = shows little evidence of reflection on reading).

25% leading discussion for one assigned class period

- Responsibilities include assembling DQs on handout for class; guiding class through discussion; bringing in some new element, such as video or additional handout/activity
- Graded on 4.0 scale

25% active participation in all other class periods

- graded on 3-point scale; 3 = consistently engaged and reflective; 2 = generally good but inconsistently engaged, or reflections are not consistently pertinent or clearly expressed; 1 = not much contribution to discussion

25% final paper analyzing ethics of a classic or controversial study in psychology

- ~8 pages, due at end of finals period
- Graded on 4.0 scale
Schedule and Reading List

A. Scientific Integrity

- Week 1 (8/29): Introduction: Why Do We Need Ethics Training in Science?
- Week 2 (9/5): Labor Day – no class
- Week 3 (9/12): Data Fabrication and Misrepresentation
- Week 4 (9/19): Authorship, Intellectual Property, and Peer Review
- Week 5 (9/26): Open Science Movement
B. External Forces Operating on Science

- Week 6 (10/3): Political Pressures

- Week 7 (10/17): Industry and Economic Pressures

- Week 8 (10/24): Science and the Media
C. Research Participants

- **Week 9 (10/31): Regulatory Oversight – IRB and its History**

- **Week 10 (11/7): Informed Consent, Deception, and Vulnerable Populations**

- **Week 11 (11/14): Diversity in Research Participants**

- **Week 12 (11/21): Ethical Issues in Cross-Cultural Research**


• Week 13 (11/28): Ethics of Animal Research


D. Week 14 (12/5) Student presentations