

Issues in the Responsible Conduct of Research

VME 6767 (Section 17650)

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

Location: Veterinary Academic Building, Hall B

Academic Term: Fall 2023

Course Coordinator & Instructor:

Alice Lee, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVM

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

Other Instructors:

Adam Stern, DVM, Dipl. ACVP

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(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
8/23	Introduction: What Are Scientific Ethics	Lee	2	None
8/30	Research Misconduct vs Unethical Behavior	Lee	2	Group problem set; misconduct quiz
9/6	Human Subjects and IRB Fundamentals	Lee	2	IRB or IACUC training; animal use assignment
	Animal Experiments and Ethical Use	Stern		
9/13	Data Management and Data Manipulation	Lee	2	Data reporting assignment
9/20	Authorship and Plagiarism	Lee	2	Biomedical waste training
	Biological and Lab Safety			
9/27	Peer Review, Mentorship and Collegiality	Lee	2	COI training
	Conflict of Interest			
10/4	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](#). Students with absences 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, 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.

Grading Policy:

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

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. [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:

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](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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.

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](#)