

EPIB 641/KNES 689Y – Public Health and Research Ethics Spring Semester, 2011

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Office Hours:	By appointment	By appointment

Class time: Fridays 11:00 – 11:50am

Credit Hrs: 1 cr.

Location: SPH 0305

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an overview and discussion of ethical issues that face public health practitioners and researchers. Students are expected to participate fully in small and large group discussions that are designed to highlight ethical topics of concern to those in public health practice and research.

Course Objectives & Competencies:

By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Conceptualize, identify, and critically analyze ethical issues and solutions surrounding public health practice and scholarship that protect the public.
2. Describe and critique responsible conduct of research with respect to protecting human subjects.
3. Identify sources of scientific misconduct and evaluate alternative strategies to prevent misconduct.
4. Critically analyze the policies, procedures, professional codes and rules of scientifically responsible conduct in your field of practice and/or research.
5. To compare and contrast the various solutions to ethical dilemmas in public health practice and scholarship.

By the conclusion of this course, MPH students in Epidemiology and MPH students in Biostatistics will meet the following competency:

1. Comprehend basic ethical and legal principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of epidemiologic data

Required Textbook and Reading Assignments:

Required reading assignments will be available on Blackboard (www.elms.umd.edu)

- A first approximation of the readings is included here in the schedule. Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester

Recommended: *Honor in Science*. Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, 1994.

Course Requirements:

Students in the course will be required to:

1. (70%) participate in weekly discussions both in class and online (Blackboard Discussion Board)
2. (20%) critically analyze 2 selected case studies (10% each)
 - 2.1. Case study #1: **February 25**
 - 2.2. Case study #2: **April 8**
3. (10%) complete the on-line certification for human subjects research
 - 3.1. CITI training to be completed by **March 18** – though it is *strongly* encouraged that this be completed by March 4

Successful completion at a satisfactory level in all three-course requirements is required to pass the course.

Course Policies:

Expectations of Students:

- Students are expected to attend all classes. If it is known in advance that a class will be missed, the student is expected to inform the instructor(s) at least 24 hours in advance. Alternate assignments will be made to “make up” the missed class. Students are responsible for obtaining information from the missed class from a source other than the instructor.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to class. Discussion in class and on line should:
 - Demonstrate that the student has read the materials
 - Be respectful of others in the class (acknowledging ideas of others and listening to what others have to say)
 - Advance the discussion forward
- Students are expected to give the instructor and other students their respectful attention. No tweeting, texting, face booking, and emailing during class. In fact, laptops are discouraged in class unless otherwise requested by the instructors.

Cancellation of class:

In the event that the University is closed for an emergency (e.g., snow) or extended period of time, the instructor will communicate to students regarding schedule adjustments, including rescheduling of examinations and assignments due to inclement weather and campus emergencies using the class Blackboard site. Official closures and delays are announced on the campus website (<http://www.umd.edu>) and snow phone line (301-405-SNOW), as well as local radio and TV stations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations for academic needs, please talk with the instructor by the second class period (2/4/11). You will need documentation from Disability Support Service (301-314-7682). If you intend to take any or all examinations/assignments at DSS, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity:

The University's code of academic integrity is designed to ensure that the principle of academic honesty is upheld. Any of the following acts, when committed by a student, shall constitute academic dishonesty:

CHEATING: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in an academic exercise.

FABRICATION: Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this code.

PLAGIARISM: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

For more information see: <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html>

All assignments will include the following signed statement: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination/ assignment." (University of Maryland Honor Pledge)

Religious Observances:

The University System of Maryland policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor in advance of any intended absences for religious observances.

Course Schedule, Topics and Required Readings:

All readings below are on the course Blackboard site

	TOPICS:	ASSIGNMENTS **::
1/28	Introduction to ethics in public health & the responsible conduct of research	1) Listen to Modules 1 and 2 from University of North Carolina web site http://oce.sph.unc.edu/phethics/modules.htm 2) Rdgs: Honors in Science, Ch. 1-2
2/4	Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health	Listen to Modules 3 and 4 from University of North Carolina http://oce.sph.unc.edu/phethics/modules.htm
2/11	Scientific misconduct	Honor in Science. Chapters 1 – 5 “Scientists Behaving Badly”- <i>Nature</i> (2005) “Repairing research integrity”- <i>Nature</i> (2008) “Scientific Misconduct” – <i>Lancet</i>
2/18	Whistleblowing	Honor in Science. Chapters 6 & 7 “Whistleblower Woes”(<i>Lab Animal</i> (2006) <i>UNC Public Health Module 8</i> http://oce.sph.unc.edu/phethics/module8/presentation.htm
2/25	Protection of human subjects & the IRB (at UM) DUE: Case Study #1	Belmont Report Readings relative to smoking bans – Public Health Ethics Chaps 5, 7, 8 http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/IRB/index.htm
3/4	Vulnerable Subjects	“Protecting Subjects Who Cannot Give Consent”- D Wendler <i>Hastings Center Report</i> (2005)
3/11	HIPAA & right to privacy: The case of genetic testing	-HIPAA Privacy Rule and Public Health -Genetic Discrimination in the Workplace. PS Miller http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/IRB/hipaa.htm
3/18	Data acquisition management, sharing, and analysis (record keeping) DUE: CITI training completed**	-Dahlberg article on Eric Poehlman -Poehlman NY Times article -Poehlman retraction #1 -Poehlman retraction #2 -ORI Newsletter
3/25	SPRING BREAK	

4/1	Scientific communication (including reviewing)	“When is self-plagiarism ok?” – <i>The Scientist</i> (2010) “The air we breathe: A critical look at the practices and alternatives in the peer-review process” – Suls & Martin <i>Perspectives on Psychological Science</i> (2009)
4/8	Authorship & Intellectual Property DUE: Case Study #2	- <i>JAMA</i> 1996 Authorship Paper - <i>JAMA</i> 1998 Authorship Paper
4/15	Mentoring, advising responsibilities	
4/22	Conflict of Interest	- <i>PLOS</i> Medicine Paper on Conflict of Interest -UMCP Conflict of Interest Policy
4/29	Framework for Ethics in Public Health	- “An Ethics Framework for Public Health” -NE Kass – <i>Am. J. of Public Health</i> (2001) - “A Public Health Perspective on Research Ethics” - DR Buchanan and FG Miller – <i>J. Med. Ethics</i> (2006)
5/6	Last class: SYNTHESIS	

**** This is tentative listing of readings and assignments. The instructors reserve the right to change readings and assignments when appropriate and with reasonable advance notification.**

**** Assignment Due:** Complete the HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH TRAINING: “CITI training for investigators” (Complete the “Biomedical, Social and Behavioral ‘track’)