COURSE SYLLABUS

Academic Integrity and Responsible Research

Main Instructor: Corinna Raimondo, PhD
E-mail: corinna.raimondo@northwestern.edu
Office Hours: By appointment, please.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a responsible conduct of research (RCR) course focused, but not exclusively based, on the field of biotechnology. A combination of lectures, readings and in class interactive case studies will be employed to develop ethical and moral reasoning. The topics covered will be: conflict of interest, mentoring and lab management, collaborative research, data ownership and management, peer review, authorship, plagiarism, misconduct and the processes for handling misconduct. Faculty and experts from the university will be involved in the teaching to give additional perspectives on non-black&white topics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course will:

1. Comprehensively know the pertinent and current laws and regulations they are subjected to as researchers in a university and will be subjected to as professionals in the field. They will know where the line is, at the moment, set between acceptable, questionable and misconduct practices.
2. Become familiar with the ethical dimension involved in biotechnology research, appreciate the grey areas, and recognize the consequences of their actions on others including science and the society as a whole.
3. Realize their important role as members of the scientific and non-scientific community and to hold themselves and others to high ethical standards.

TEACHING METHOD:

A combination of lectures, conversations with faculty&experts and active discussion (through role plays and other interactive activities) of case studies will be the core of the class. Readings and the CITI module will be used to tie together the single classes and to prepare students for the next topic. Most of the discussions and presentations will be oral and in-class. An additional homework will consist of a written assignment and small group presentations of cases in the news. This latter will serve the purpose of exercise their moral reasoning skills, it will also help the students learning how to engage in the dialogue on the relevance in society of responsible research.

In order to keep the subject fresh for all year, a two classes session will be taught in each quarter (fall, winter and spring). The first 30 minutes of the second and third sessions will be dedicated to activities meant to get them back into the ethical mindset and to tie the classes together.

EVALUATION METHOD:

All the following will be necessary in order to pass the class:
1. Mandatory attendance, missing (or arriving late/leaving early) on not more than one lecture
2. Read assigned materials and complete the requested CITI modules
3. Complete all assignments
4. Active participation in class discussions
5. Group Presentation participation
6. Pass the final RCR quiz

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Signing in on someone else’s behalf is grounds for failure.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Readings, as assigned
2. Present assigned case study (small group)
3. Present a case in the news (group)
4. Authorship assignment, written

REFERENCES:


Online Ethics Center www.onlineethics.org

READINGS

Nicholas Wade and William Broad’s Betrayers of the truth, Simon & Schuster Publisher, 1982

SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 1 (2h)</td>
<td>Fall 1, all students together</td>
<td>x groups of 3 students will first discuss between themselves and then present the discussion to everybody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz, Introduction of general misconduct and case study in small groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 2 (2h)</td>
<td>Fall 2</td>
<td>Plagiarism and Authorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 3 (2h)</td>
<td>Winter 1</td>
<td>Authorship, Mentoring (and lab management), Peer Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 4 (2h)</td>
<td>Winter 2</td>
<td>COI and IP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 5 (2h)</td>
<td>Spring 1, all students together</td>
<td>Contemporary cases focused on the topics seen in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture 6 (2h)</td>
<td>Spring 2, all students together</td>
<td>Contemporary cases continue and Summary of the course and final quiz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>