

GRSC 8550

Responsible Conduct of Research

Instructor:

David Knaft
Horticulture Department
1111 Miller Plant Sciences Building
706-542-2471
dknaft@uga.edu

Course description:

Throughout this course, we will explore ethical issues in research, including codes of ethics for professional organizations, the responsible conduct of research, and the development of personal professionalism and ethics.

Course details:

1 credit, graded A-F
Class meets Thursdays at 3:30 pm in 310 Conner Hall

Text:

No required text. Reading assignments will be made online. Students interested in excellent references on this broad topic are encouraged to consider either *Responsible Conduct of Research* (2nd Edition, 2009) by A. E. Shamoo and D. B. Resnik, or *Scientific Integrity* (3rd Edition, 2005) by F. L. Macrina.

Class schedule:

Topics will be covered in the following order. Specific coverage may take more or less time than an allocated class period, causing portions of some topics to be covered prior to or after the indicated date.

Topic

Intro and Professionalism
Ethics
Research Misconduct - What is it?
Data Management
Authorship
Peer Review
Mentoring
Intellectual Property
Conflict of interest
Collaboration between university and industry

Use of animal subjects
Use of human subjects
Whistleblowing and Dispute Resolution
Teaching and communication ethics
Defining and Nurturing Personal Professionalism and Ethics

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should have learned:

- The nature of ethical systems underlying codes of ethics and conduct of professional societies
- How their own value systems can impact research conduct
- The key components of honesty and integrity in conducting research, including misconduct, plagiarism, and data falsification
- Policies and procedures on data management and ownership
- How to determine credit, responsibility, and criteria for authorship of manuscripts
- The nature of peer review of manuscripts and grants, including issues of response, competence, and confidentiality
- The definition and management of conflicts of interest
- An overview of faculty/graduate student interactions, their development and enhancement, and how to manage problems
- What constitutes appropriate consulting arrangements
- The nature of intellectual property and its commercialization
- Appropriate design and implementation of research with animals and humans
- The issues surrounding whistleblowing and treatment of whistleblowers
- How to nurture personal philosophies and ethics

Grading framework:

A significant portion of the course will be classroom-based collaborative discussions of ethical issues.

Classroom participation (including attendance)	60%
Various written assignments	20%
Personal statement on professional ethics	20%

Additional information:

All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty* (<http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/ACOH%20May%20'07.pdf>). Each student is responsible for knowing those standards before performing academic work.

Students with a disability or health-related issue who need a class accommodation should make an appointment to speak with the instructor as soon as possible.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.