Syllabus: Responsible Conduct or Research (STS 6500)

Syllabus
Responsible Conduct of Research (Ethics and Compassion)

STS 6500
Spring Semester, 2017
R.W. Berne, PhD
Syllabus (Revised 11/10/17)

Course Overview

Responsible conduct of research is defined as “the practice of scientific investigation with integrity. It involves the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research.” (NIH)

The NIH requires that all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, and dissertation research grant must receive instruction in responsible conduct of research.

The course will follow the NIS recommended format of substantial face-to-face discussions, combining didactic and small-group discussions. Case studies, short films, journal articles, S. Jasanoff’s The Ethics of Invention, and the “Introductory Topic Packet” by M. Kalichman, will be used as the primary foci of our conversations. Classes will center on discussion of the assigned readings, with particular attention given to students’ written responses to topical questions.

This is a 1-credit course, meeting for 50 minutes, once a week.

Course Grading

50% Participation in discussions about readings and films
50% 10, 1-2 page written responses to discussion questions and readings

Topics & Schedule

Week 1. Introduction
Jasanoff, S. (2016). The Power of Technology (Ch. 1). The Ethics of Invention: Technology and the Human Future

Week 2. Responsible Conduct of Research
Film: The Whole Truth & Noah’s Dilemma (AAAS Integrity in Scientific Research)
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**Week 3. Conflicts of interest: personal, professional and financial**
Topic Packet: “Conflicts of interest,” by Michael Kalichman
Reading: Harris, R. (2017). Begley’s Bombshell, Ch. 1., *Rigor mortis: How sloppy science creates worthless cures, crushes hope, and wastes billions*

**Week 4. Responsible authorship, publication ethics**

**Week 5. Plagiarism and peer review**
Topic Packet: “Peer Review,” by Michael Kalichman

**Week 6. Risks of Invention**

**Week 7. Data acquisition; management, sharing and ownership**
Topic Packet: “Data management,” by M. Kalichman
Reading: Jasanoff, S. (2016). “Whose knowledge, whose property?” (Ch. 7) in *The Ethics of Invention: Technology and the Human Future*

**Week 8. Ethical dilemmas in research integrity**
Topic Packet: “Whistle blowing,” by M. Kalichman

**Week 9. Human subject research**
Topic Packet: “Human subjects,” by M. Kalichman

**Week 10. Collaborative research, including with industry**
Topic Packet: “Collaboration,” by M. Kalichman
Week 11. Diversity in graduate education

Weeks 12 & 13. Values and Compassion
Jasanoff, S. (2016). “Reclaiming the future” & “Invention for the people” (Ch. 8 & 9) in The Ethics of Invention: Technology and the Human Future

Week 14. Reflections and Course Conclusion: What does this all mean for me as a graduate student?
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