Course Syllabus – RES 350

Course Information

Course Number: RES 350 FA25
Course Name: Ethics in Science
Term: Fall 2025
Start Date: 08/12/2025
End Date: 08/27/2025
Credits: 1.0

Meeting Days / Times

Tues/Wed, August 12 & 13, 2:00-4:00pm PT / 5:00-7:00pm ET
Tues/Wed/Thurs, August 19-21, 1:00-3:00pm PT / 4:00-6:00pm ET
Mon/Tues, August 25 & 26, 8:30-10:30am PT / 11:30am-1:30pm ET
Wed, August 27, 10:00-11:00am PT / 1:00-2:00pm ET
(See Calendar in Canvas for the most up-to-date schedule)

Location

CA: Committee Lecture Hall (Molecular Biology Building)
FL: B158

Course Managers

Role	Last Name	First Name	Email Address
Course Director	Aponte-Collazo	Lucas	laponte@scripps.edu
Course Director	D'Silva	Natalie	ndsilva@scripps.edu

Office Hours

By appointment: Email the course instructor.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to engage researchers in reading, considering, and discussing the responsible conduct of science. The course is designed as an option for meeting current NIH and NSF requirements for training in the responsible conduct of research.

Ethical aspects of behavioral and biomedical research can be complex as questions of community, social justice, culture, autonomy, and individual rights are often difficult to recognize and navigate. The goal of this course is to learn about the dynamic field of research ethics including the rules, regulations, norms, and conventions. Students will explore the ethical, legal/regulatory, and social implications (ELSI) of research across the phases of planning, conducting, and reporting research. As ethics is dynamic, this course is designed to encourage inquiry into and discussion about ethical principles, regulations, conventions, and organizational practices that support, and/or potentially compromise,

the responsible and ethical conduct of research. Students will learn about the research ecosystem and consider how to influence the "health" of this ecosystem by applying an ecological systems model. *Course materials are adapted from UCSD Research Ethics Program.*

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:
CLO1: Describe rules, issues, options, and resources associated with research ethics.
CLO2: Understand the purpose and value of ethical decision-making.
CLO3: Have a positive disposition toward research ethics through reflection on your role in influencing the research ecosystem.

Background Preparation

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, baseline information for discussion topics can be found at research-ethics.org.

Expectations and Logistics

Course topics will be covered by a combination of lectures, discussions in class, and a faculty panel. Concepts will be introduced using a peer-led presentation/discussion format. This approach is used to help you to learn how to learn about identifying and navigating the ELSIs of our daily life in the research environment. Students are expected to be on time, attend all sessions, prepare in advance of class, and be respectful of different opinions. The course may have some homework assignments to help you prepare for the in-class discussions.

Assignments

If you find that you are unable to complete all course requirements, please contact the instructor to discuss your options as soon as possible.

Attendance and Participation

To receive credit for completing this course, you must attend and participate in all meetings. Attendance at the first meeting is required, there is no option for a make-up assignment. Use of computers or phones in class is not permitted unless for course readings, assignments, or in-class activities. If you must miss a class, please contact the course instructor to review options for alternate assignments. However, the first two sessions are mandatory.

Faculty Panel

The final meeting of the class will include a faculty panel discussion. While it is hoped that all members of the panel adhere to the highest ethical and regulatory standards, their role as panelists is only to share their own research practices and perspectives.

You are required to provide at least 2 questions to be asked of the faculty panel. The instructor will provide guidance on question format and content, and how they will be handled during the faculty panel. **Students must submit their questions via Canvas by Tuesday, August 26th at 5pm PT / 8pm ET**.

Evaluation

After completion of the course, you will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire to assess knowledge, perceptions, and/or attitudes relevant to the course. These questionnaires are important for assessing the impact of the course.

Course Requirements

Attendance, participation in discussions, and completion of assignments will be the basis for credit. The grading option is pass/fail.

Attendance Statement

Attendance of all lectures is mandatory to satisfy NIH/NSF training requirements. Students are responsible for their own work and must have advanced permission from the instructor if they must miss a class. Attendance of the first two sessions is mandatory as they set the foundation for the course.

Course Grading

Grading is in accordance with the academic policies of the Skaggs Graduate School. This course is pass/fail. Students must pass the class to receive a certificate of completion.

Pass: Satisfactory work. Student performance demonstrated complete and adequate understanding. Student attended all sessions. Student participated in discussions on a regular basis.

Fail: Unacceptable work/failure. Student performance is unacceptably low with low level of knowledge and understanding of the course subject matter. Student did not actively participate in or attend all sessions.

Scientific and Professional Ethics

The work you do in this course must be your own. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. You must explicitly acknowledge when your work builds on someone else's ideas, including ideas of classmates, professors, and authors you read. If you ever have questions about drawing the line between others' work and your own, ask the course professor who will give you clear guidance.

Community Guidelines Statement

The instructor seeks to cultivate a learning environment of inclusivity, safety, and community. Students from all backgrounds are encouraged to participate in this class. This course relies on a community of respect, trust, and willingness to share. Because of this, it is important that we work from a space of

truly valuing the diversity and differences of all the participants and the lived experiences of each one of us. We do this by making sure we are engaging in inclusive practices that support each other's learning and growth. We recognize the multitude of students with intersectional and complex identities. For this reason, we welcome and appreciate suggestions from our students to enhance not only the curriculum but also any opportunities to learn from one another as scientists with unique cultures and individuality. We are committed to creating a space that is encouraging, empowering, and engaging. We will honor these community guidelines with integrity and request the students demonstrate the same for their instructors and peers.

Accommodations

If you require accommodations for this course, please communicate with the instructor to discuss a plan to best support your learning and engagement.

Technology Requirements and Support

For issues related to Canvas, please contact the Graduate Office by email at: gradprgm@scripps.edu or by phone at: 858-784-8469.

Course Summary

Date	Details
Tue Aug 12, 2025	Session 1 - Instructor-led Sessions
Wed Aug 13, 2025	Session 2 - Instructor-led Sessions
Mon Aug 18, 2025	Session 3 - Biosafety/Safe Research Environments
Tue Aug 19, 2025	Session 3 - CA Student Presentations
	Session 4 - Human Subjects
Wed Aug 20, 2025	Session 4 - CA Student Presentations
	Session 5 - Responsible Authorship, Publication & Peer Review
Thu Aug 21, 2025	Session 5 - CA Student Presentation & Instructor-led Presentation
Sun Aug 24, 2025	Session 6 - Collaborative Research Including Industry Collaborations
	Session 6 - Intellectual Property/Technology Transfer
Mon Aug 25, 2025	Session 6 - CA & Oxford Student Presentations
	Make up
	Session 7 - Conflict of Interest – Personal/Professional/Financial
	Session 7 - Social Responsibility
	Session 8 - Submit questions for panelists
Tue Aug 26, 2025	Session 7 - FL Student Presentations
Wed Aug 27, 2025	Session 8 - Faculty Panel