Research Ethics  
*Philosophy 691*  
*Thursdays 4:30-7:10 pm*  
Robinson B 246

**Instructor’s contact information:**  
Lisa A. Eckenwiler, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Philosophy | Health Administration and Policy  
Director of Health Care Ethics, Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics  
Office: Robinson B 378 (CHPRE) | Tel: 703.993.1724 | Email: leckenwi@gmu.edu  
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 3 – 4 p.m. and by appointment

**Course objectives:**  
1. to identify, define, and analyze ethical issues that arise in the development, conduct, and dissemination of research  
2. to understand and correctly employ the philosophical concepts and principles that inform ethical research

**Course format:**  
The course is designed as a seminar, emphasizing engaged discussion.

**Course materials:**  
There is one text for the course:  

All other readings will be sent to students’ GMU email accounts. Students are responsible for ensuring that they receive all materials.
Course requirements:
1. Attending and participating fully in class (20%)
2. Reading all assigned articles and generating critical questions and commentary on readings. Please see Appendix A. (20%)
3. Facilitating one class discussion. Please see Appendix B. (20%)
4. Formulating a proposal and writing a research paper. Please see Appendices C and E. (30%)
5. Presenting your paper, in brief. Please see Appendix D. (10%)

Course policies:
1. Assignments are subject to change.
2. Students are responsible for being accurately informed about changes made to the syllabus and all other announcements related to course requirements and proceedings.
3. All work must be typed and double-spaced.
4. Writing assignments must be submitted in hard copy either in class or to the department's administrative assistant, Ms. Cho, in Robinson B 465. Assignments not submitted directly to the instructor must be signed by another faculty member or Ms. Cho noting the date and time of submission.
5. Late assignments will not be accepted except in cases approved in advance by the instructor or in the event of an emergency.
6. Students are expected to know how to properly document sources and how to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarized work will receive a failing grade on the assignment and will result in a referral to the Honor Council.
7. All students are expected to adhere to the university’s honor code: http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12
8. All students are responsible for ensuring that they receive assigned articles.
10. All students should read the Philosophy Department’s guidance on writing. Available at: http://philosophy.gmu.edu/forundergraduates. See the links for Standards of Good Writing for Philosophy and Writing Guide for Philosophy.
11. Students in need of assistance with writing fundamentals should meet with staff at the GMU Writing Center. More information is available at: http://writingcenter.gmu.edu
12. Students in need should work with the Office of Disability Services and please see me. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. More information is available at: http://ods.gmu.edu
February 3
Introductions

February 10
What Do You Think You’re Doing? Moral Agency in the Conduct of Research

Readings:
1. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 1, Scientific Research and Ethics
2. Beecher, Ethics and Clinical Research
3. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 12, The Protection of Human Subjects in Research
4. Moodley, Microbicide Research in Developing Countries

February 17
What’s the Relationship Between You and What/Who You’re Studying? “Subjects”, “Objects”, Responsibilities

Readings:
1. Lloyd, Reason, Science, and the Domination of Matter
2. Fox Keller, Dynamic Autonomy: Objects as Subjects
3. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 11, Use of Animals in Research
4. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 13, Protecting Vulnerable Human Subjects in Research
5. Young, Asymmetrical Reciprocity

February 24
How Do You Think and Why Does It Matter Ethically? Epistemology and Ethics

Readings:
1. Descartes (See: http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/descartes-epistemology/)
2. Fox Keller, Dynamic Objectivity: Love, Power and Knowledge
4. Code, Ecological Knowing

March 3
Who Are You Working With? Collaboration and Responsibility

Readings:
1. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 4, Mentoring and Collaboration
March 10
Responsibilities Concerning Data, Authorship, Peer Review and Reporting in Research

Readings:
1. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 3, Data Acquisition and Management
2. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 6, Authorship
3. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 7, Publication and Peer Review

MARCH 17 NO CLASS ~ SPRING BREAK

March 24
Conflicts of Interest and Scientific Objectivity

Readings:
1. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 5, Collaboration between Academia and Private Industry
2. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 10, Conflicts of Interest and Scientific Objectivity
4. Levinsky, Non-Financial Conflicts of Interest NEJM 347 (10)
5. McCrery et al. A National Survey of Policies on Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest in Biomedical Research NEJM 343(22)

March 31
Research Misconduct

Readings:
1. Shamoo and Resnik, Chapter 8, Misconduct in Research
2. Woolf, Pressure to Publish and Fraud in Science
3. Bailar, Science, Statistics, and Deception
4. Mills, Data Torturing
[See: Marc Hauser, Jan Hendrik Schon, and Gerald Schatten]

April 7
What Is at Stake Ethically? Institutionalizing Research Ethics

Readings:


**April 14**

*What Is at Stake Ethically? Institutionalizing Research Ethics*

Readings:
1. Weijer and Emmanuel, Protecting Communities in Biomedical Research
2. Levine, et al. The Limitations of “Vulnerability” for the Protection of Human Research Participants
3. Faden, Mastroianni, Kahn, Beyond Belmont: Trust, Openness, and the Work of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments

**April 21**

*What Are the Necessary Conditions for Ethical Research?*

Reading:
1. USAID and GCM, *Research Rashomon*

**April 28**

*What Are the Necessary Conditions for Ethical Research? (II)*

Readings:
2. Baylis, Of Courage, Honor, and Integrity
3. Walker, Keeping Moral Space Open

**May 5**

Presentations

**May 12**

Presentations

Papers due in class
APPENDIX A

QUESTIONS/COMMENTARY ON READINGS

These should consist of your own critical questions and appraisal of the issues/concerns raised by the reading(s). You can earn up to one point for each of the readings you have addressed. If you must be absent, submit your critical comments/questions by email or paper by the beginning of the seminar you will miss. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Think of this as engaging the authors in a conversation about what they argued in an essay. You can identify a point made, not made, or not adequately developed by the author and elaborate on what you take to be its significance for ethics in global health policy and/or practice. You may want to develop your own argument (extremely concise and perhaps speculative here) about how to address the issue(s) you have raised. **Be sure to be clear on the specific reasons that support your view and explain how your view enriches our understanding of the issue and strengthens our ability to uphold ethical ideals.**
You will lead a portion of one class meeting during the semester. This calls for having objectives for the class and a plan for meeting them. Your focus should be on raising salient ethical questions that will support your colleagues’ understanding of ethical issues and the strategies and skills for resolving them. Please plan a meeting with the instructor to be held no later than the Tuesday prior to the seminar to discuss your intended approach.

**SEMINAR EVALUATION**

The grade will be a combination of student’s self-report and instructor’s assessment.

1. **Organization**
   - Demonstrated preparation
   - Demonstrated that objectives for the discussion were identified
   - Demonstrated logical progression of ideas
   - Used allotted time effectively

2. **Scholarship**
   - Presented accurate information
   - Identified relevant issues and concerns
   - Raised salient ethical questions
   - Employed ethical concepts and theories appropriately
   - Demonstrated critical thinking

3. **Style**
   - Presented material in an engaging manner
   - Facilitated discussion effectively
APPENDIX C

RESEARCH PAPER

Your paper will explore and critically analyze an ethical issue or philosophical problem related to one or more of the class discussions or a topic of your choice concerning public health ethics. Please note due dates for proposals and outlines. Consultations to help formulate your ideas are encouraged.

Suggested structure for your final paper:
1a. Identify & "motivate" the problem: what issue do you intend to discuss & why is it morally or otherwise philosophically pressing? 1b. Tell your readers your thesis -- what position do you intend to argue for and how will you do this? Give them a brief road map of how the paper will be organized to get to your conclusion.
2. Present any relevant background information (case law, statistics, existing or developing law, policy) to help orient the reader to the issue, its scope and significance.
3. Present what others have said about the issue in the literature you have reviewed. What are their arguments and what reasons do they give for them? Capture the richness of the debate and include a range of relevant perspectives, authors writing in different disciplines, or from otherwise different backgrounds. Be sure to give different views -- those that are similar to and different from your own -- equal presentation.
4. Present your original idea or position and defend it with strong reasons. Do not assume that your readers see the connections that you see; rather, you should clearly and overtly explain why the evidence you are presenting seems to you to justify the argument you are making.
5. What are the implications of your view for our understanding of and approach to the issue you have sought to address?
6. Clarify why your position is preferable to others' views -- i.e., why your view and the reasons that support it are more persuasive than the views and reasons given by others. Why should we see it and do it your way?
7. Conclude. What have you shown?

Recommended length: 15-20 pages (12-inch font, Times New Roman, 1.25” margins max).

TWO IMPORTANT NOTES ON REFERENCES:
1. Your final paper must contain at least 4 references from academic and professional journals, philosophical texts, and other scholarly sources.
2. Your references must be in an identified, widely used format such as Chicago Style, APA, or MLA Style.
APPENDIX C

PAPER EVALUATION

1. Introduction: statement of issue, why it's morally pressing, thesis
2. Presentation of a range of ethical perspectives on issue
3. Presentation of your position and support with strong moral reasons.
4. Clarification of why the moral reasons you offer are more persuasive than those given by others.
5. Discussion of implications for policy & practice
6. Integration of ethical theories and concepts
7. Organization of the argument
8. Syntax and diction, spelling and punctuation, paragraphing
9. References/Documentation

APPENDIX D

PRESENTATION EVALUATION

1. Introduction: statement of issue, why it's morally pressing, thesis
2. Presentation of a range of ethical perspectives on issue
3. Presentation of your position and support with strong moral reasons.
4. Clarification of why the moral reasons you offer are more persuasive than those given by others.
5. Discussion of implications for policy & practice
6. Response to questions
Some important institutions and other organizations:
Office of Research Integrity
See: http://ori.dhhs.gov

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
http://aaas.org

Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE)
http://www.indiana.edu/~appe/

Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIMR)
http://www.primr.org/

Journals that publish on research ethics:
IRB
Journal of Accountability in Research
American Journal of Bioethics
Bioethics
Cambridge Quarterly of Health Care Ethics
Developing World Bioethics
Hastings Center Report
International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics
Journal of Bioethical Inquiry
Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics
Journal of Medical Ethics
Journal of Medicine and Philosophy
Journal of Theoretical Medicine
Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal
American Journal of Public Health
JAMA
New England Journal of Medicine
The Lancet
BMJ
Science
*materials published by governmental or non-governmental organizations and agencies carrying out scholarly research and policy work