

## GRAD 721: Professional and Research Ethics

Offered Spring 2015, Mondays 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Graduate Student Center

January 12, 2015 – March 16, 2015

### Course Description:

Researchers in all disciplines routinely confront questions about right and wrong at all stages of their careers. Though broad questions about the ethics of experimenting on human subjects or the accurate reporting of research findings may grab public attention, students in the physical, life, and social sciences, as well as in the humanities, must also grapple with issues related to intellectual property rights, conflicts of interest, and professional relationships. By applying ethical theories to real-world conflicts, students will reflect upon potential problems and discuss possible solutions in an engaging, collegial environment.

The topics to be addressed include (but are not restricted to): falsification of data, plagiarism, professional codes of ethics, issues in mentoring, peer review and authorship, the use of statistics, intellectual property, conflicts of interest, the use of human and animal subjects in research, environmental ethics, issues involving women and under-represented minorities in the professions, and the social responsibilities of researchers.

This graduate level course will be conducted as a seminar and will meet weekly (one day/week) for seven weeks. All readings, case studies, and instructional material will be available online. The face to face sessions will be devoted to review of the principles relevant to specific reading topics and discussion of the complexities and difficulties of specific cases. The requirements of the course are to complete the online material and to participate in the weekly meetings. There will be no additional exams or papers.