

Research and Professional Ethics for the Bio-behavioral Sciences, A502 Syllabus, 2016

Co-Instructors

Ellen Ketterson, Professor of Biology, Director, NIH Training Grant, Common Themes in Reproductive Diversity (CTRD), ketterso@indiana.edu

Chris Harshaw, Research Scientist, Psychological and Brain Sciences, charshaw@indiana.edu, <http://www.indiana.edu/~ablab/chrisharshaw.html>

Will Kenkel, Research Scientist, Kinsey Institute, wm.kenkel@gmail.com, <http://www.indiana.edu/~kinsey/about/kenkel.html>

Courtney Fitzpatrick, CTRD post-doc (appointment to begin 1 January 2017, present for only one session, clynfitz@duke.edu, http://labs.bio.unc.edu/Servedio/Fitzpatrick/Courtney_Fitzpatrick.html

Associate Instructors

Stephanie Campos, Graduate student, Martins Lab, smcampos@indiana.edu, www.smcampos.wix.com/stephaniemcampos

Kristyn Sylvia, Graduate student, Demas lab, ksylvia@indiana.edu, <http://www.indiana.edu/~demaslab/people.php>

Sam Slowinski, Graduate student, Ketterson and Lively labs, samslowinski@gmail.com

Rachel Hanauer, Graduate student, Ketterson lab, rhanuer@indiana.edu

Meeting time and place

CISAB, 409 N. Park, 1:30-3:45 PM, specified Wednesdays

Class topics

The class will meet for 8 sessions on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:45. One to three individuals from the group of instructors will lead each class. Topics will include...

- 1) Introductory session, ethical decision making, general considerations
- 2) Publishing, reviewing, issues of objectivity & confidentiality; other issues relating to publishing (credit and collegiality)
- 3) Scientific misconduct ("FFP", case studies, procedures, ethical decision making)
- 4) Data access/data ownership/data sharing: whose data are they? Issues relating to data selection, access, maintenance, ownership, and data quality.
- 5) Animal and human subjects, animal welfare, animal care, animal rights, laboratory and field animals, regulations and ethical considerations
- 6) Student-advisor relationships
- 7) Conducting research in sensitive or politicized areas e.g., human sexuality, neuroscience/neuroethics, evolution, biotechnology, trans-species gene transfer
- 8) Scientific ethics in the 21st Century, new challenges posed by technology

Expectations of student participants

We feel confident that you are all interested in professional ethics and looking forward to participating, even if you are fulfilling requirements associated with receiving a stipend

from the government or a degree. I am looking forward to making make this a meaningful experience for all of us. And in my experience it's also fun.

Explicit statements of expectations are the norm in teaching, so here is what I am expecting from you.

1. Attendance. We are scheduled to meet only eight times, and if you are enrolled I expect you to be present each time. If you must be absent, please inform me (Ketterson@Indiana.edu) in advance, or, if that proves impossible, let me know the circumstances after the fact. More than one absence, explained or unexplained, is not acceptable.

2. Preparation. The readings form the basis for discussion, and you should come to class having read the assignments and thought about how they relate to the day's subject.

3. Participation. This will take two forms.

In advance of each session (by 5PM Monday before class), please send a written 'think piece' to the instructors for the session, with a copy to me. What I have in mind is an e-mail, typically a page in length, which will serve to stimulate the exchange of ideas. The nature of the piece may vary from week to week depending on the topic and who is in charge. For example, you might elaborate on one of the readings, describe a personal experience (use this approach sparingly), state a reasoned opinion (ideal), or draw a connection between one week's and another week's readings. Alternatively, you might be given a specific assignment for a session.

One purpose of these pieces is to help the instructors leading the sessions to include the interests and opinions of people in the class in the discussion; another is for you to prepare your minds and to ensure that everyone's ideas contribute to each class. Please plan to prepare pieces that you are proud of.

The other important aspect of participation is speaking in class. This comes more easily to some than to others, but I strongly encourage all of you to contribute in this way. If in the past you have had a tendency to dominate discussions, please edit your thoughts before you speak. If you tend to hang back in discussion, you may be editing too carefully - please take the plunge and offer your views to your classmates. Everyone can improve their ethical judgments by listening and by articulating their arguments. This should be fun; thanks for joining up.

Dates, 2016

August 31	Introduction and overview – Ketterson, everyone
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September 14	Publishing – Kenkel, Harshaw, Slowinski
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September 28	Misconduct – Ketterson, Sylvia, Hanauer
October 19	Data - Fitzpatrick, Harshaw
October 26	Animal and human subjects – Kenkel, Campos
November 2	Research in sensitive areas – Kenkel, Slowinski
November 16	Student-advisor – Campos, Sylvia
November 30	Scientific ethics in the 21 st Century – Harshaw, Hanauer