

Ethical Performance of Scientific Research

What Biosc 2058, *Ethical Performance of Scientific Research* - Fall 2015

Who Dr. Jeffrey Lawrence 357 Crawford Hall jlawrenc@pitt.edu

When Fridays 9:00 am – 10:50 am

Where 116 Cathedral of Learning (Italian Room)

Class	Topic	Writing assignment due
16 October	Ethics : black and white and gray	Review of Wolpe paper & challenges
23 October	Data collection and management	Expectations for lab notebooks
30 October	Publication	Expectations for authorship
6 November	Plagiarism and intellectual property	Plagiarism workshop
13 November	Research using animal subjects	Guidelines for animal research
20 November	Research using human subjects	Ethical issues for human subject research
27 November	<i>Thanksgiving recess</i>	Guidelines for consent
4 December	Research misconduct	Exploration of <i>The Lab</i>
11 December	Beyond the lab	Obligations of researchers

Attendance. The class has only eight meetings; students are expected to attend every class. Late arrival, lack of attendance, and lack of participation will negatively impact final grades. We remind first-year graduate students that successful completion of the course is a requirement for promotion to the second year.

Textbook. We will not follow a formal textbook. However, the slides used for each class will be distributed via email following each class. These documents will contain (a) all material we discussed, (b) lists of internet resources for your further research, and (c) a clear description of the written assignment due the next week.

Written Assignments. Written assignments are assigned weekly. In general, written assignments should be completed within a single page of text (12 point sans serif font), though some assignments may run longer (*e.g.*, exploration of *The Lab*). Your name, the date and the title for the assignment should appear at the top of the page. Completed work is expected to be submitted via email to the instructor before midnight on the **Wednesday** before each class. Assignments should be submitted as a Microsoft Word (*.docx) or PDF file. If one is working via Google Docs, download your file as a PDF file before submitted it (File|Download As...|PDF). Late assignments will be marked accordingly.

Grading. Grades will be determined by both performance on written assignments and class participation. Written assignments are graded on the basis of (a) the thought and effort put into completing the assignment, (b) the clarity of the written document - how the ideas are presented, how well-reasoned the points are, and how consistent the points are within the document (lack of self-conflict). Written assignments showing lack of depth and effort will be graded accordingly. As a discussion course, class participation is an essential component; students are expected to make multiple, substantive comments every class. Attendance in the absence of participation is insufficient to achieve a passing grade.

Outside resources. For the purposes of written assignment, you will be asked to provide your thoughts and opinions on a variety of topics. In each case, it is important that you consider these assignments in the absence of others' opinions, including those available on the internet. It is important both to you as a student and for the class as a whole that we gather the spectrum of individual ideas and opinions from the class. After completing your written assignment, you are welcome to consult outside resources in preparation for the class discussion. In addition, internet resources will be provided in the handouts, which will be emailed to students after class.

Academic integrity. As a discussion course, students should feel free to express their opinions; it is quite likely that you may disagree with the opinions of others in the class. Discussion points should be thoughtful and constructive; antagonistic, hostile or *ad hominem* comments have no place in the classroom. In addition, it should be obvious that students are expected to abide by the University of Pittsburgh's academic integrity code; the work submitted should be your own. Prior to class, discussion of the assignments with more senior graduate students, or the consultation of outside materials, is not permitted. After each class, such discussion and consultations are encouraged.