College of Health and Human Performance  
University of Maryland, College Park  
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics  

EPIB 641/KNES 689Y – Public Health and Research Ethics  
Spring Semester, 2009  

Instructors:  James Hagberg, Ph.D., Deborah Rohm Young, Ph.D.  
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Office hours:  JH: Mon, Wed 10 AM – 1 PM; DRY: TBA  
Class time:  Fridays 11 – 11:50  
Location:  HHP 0303  

Course Description:  
This course is designed to provide an overview and discussion of ethical issues that face public health practitioners and researchers. Students are expected to participate fully in small and large group discussions that are designed to highlight ethical topics of concern to those in public health practice and research.  

Course Objectives:  
By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:  
1. Identify ethical issues surrounding public health practice and discuss solutions to protect the public.  
2. Describe responsible conduct of research with respect to protecting subjects.  
3. Identify sources of scientific misconduct and discuss strategies to prevent misconduct.  

Required Textbook and Reading Assignments:  
Required reading assignments are listed in the course outline.  

Grading Procedures:  This one-credit course will be graded on participation in weekly discussions and demonstration of completion of reading assignments. Students are required to complete on-line certification for human subjects research.  

Course Policies:  
Expectations of Students:  Students are expected to attend all classes. If it is known in advance that a class will be missed, the student is expected to inform the instructor. Students are responsible for obtaining information from the missed class from a source other than the
instructor. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to class. Students are expected to give the instructor and other students their respectful attention.

In the event that the University is closed for an emergency or extended period of time, the instructor will communicate to students regarding schedule adjustments, including rescheduling of examinations and assignments due to inclement weather and campus emergencies. Official closures and delays are announced on the campus website (http://www.umd.edu) and snow phone line (301-405-SNOW), as well as local radio and TV stations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations for test taking or other needs, please talk with the instructor as soon as possible. You will need documentation from Disability Support Service (301-314-7682). If you intend to take any or all examinations at DSS, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity: The University’s code of academic integrity is designed to ensure that the principle of academic honesty is upheld. Any of the following acts, when committed by a student, shall constitute academic dishonesty:

- **CHEATING**: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in an academic exercise.
- **FABRICATION**: Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this code.
- **PLAGIARISM**: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise.

For more information see: http://www.inform.umd.edu/CampusInfo/Departments/PRES/policies/iii100a.html

All examinations and assignments will include the following signed statement: “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment.” (University of Maryland Honor Pledge)

**Religious Observances**: The University System of Maryland policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor in advance of any intended absences for religious observances.
**Course Outline and Required Readings:**
All readings below with an * before it are on the course Blackboard site

**Jan 30.** Modules 1 and 2 from University of North Carolina web site
http://oce.sph.unc.edu/phethics/index.htm

*Honor in Science: Chapters 1 and 2

**Feb 6.** *Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health

Modules 3 and 4 from University of North Carolina
http://oce.sph.unc.edu/phethics/index.htm

**Feb 13.** *Belmont Report

**Feb 20.** Ethics in Public Health

*An Ethics Framework for Public Health. NE Kass
*A Public Health Perspective on Research Ethics. DR Buchanan and FG Miller

**Feb 27.** Kennedy Krieger Case

*Justice and Fairness in the Kennedy Krieger Institute Lead Paint Study. DR Buchanan and FG Miller

**March 6.** Right to Privacy

Readings relative to smoking bans – Public Health Ethics Chaps 5, 7, 8

**March 13.** HIPAA and Genetics Issues

*HIPAA Privacy Rule and Public Health
*Genetic Discrimination in the Workplace. PS Miller

**March 20.** SPRING BREAK

**March 27.** Overview of the University of Maryland Institutional Review Board, Human Consent Procedures

http://www.umresearch.umd.edu/IRB/index.htm

Assignment Due: Completed Human Subjects On-Line Training

http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.htm

Human Subjects Research on-line certification:
April 3  Vulnerable Subjects  
*Protecting Subjects Who Cannot Give Consent. D Wendler

April 10  Scientific Misconduct  
*Honor in Science. Chapters 1 – 5  
*Scientists Behaving Badly- Nature article  
*Scientific Misconduct – Lancet article

April 17  Scientific Misconduct – Eric Poehlman  
*Dahlberg article on Eric Poehlman  
*Poehlman NY Times article  
*Poehlman retraction #1  
*Poehlman retraction #2  
*ORI Newsletter

April 24  Whistleblowing  
*Honor in Science. Chapters 6 & 7  
*Whistleblower Woes

May 1  Authorship  
*JAMA 1996 Authorship Paper  
*JAMA 1998 Authorship Paper  
*PLOS Medicine Paper on Conflict of Interest  
*UMCP Conflict of Interest Policy

May 8  Case Study #1  
TBD