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| <b>Course Name: Introduction to Research Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research</b>  | <b>Course title: SHARP 315 (1.5 cr.)</b>                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Course Coordinator:</b> Thalia Arawi                                                  | <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:tal6@aub.edu.lb">tal6@aub.edu.lb</a>                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Course Instructors:</b><br>Ghada El Hajj Fuleihan<br>Rami Mahfouz<br>Deborah Mukherji | <b>Emails:</b><br><a href="mailto:gf01@aub.edu.lb">gf01@aub.edu.lb</a><br><a href="mailto:rm11@aub.edu.lb">rm11@aub.edu.lb</a><br><a href="mailto:dm25@aub.edu.lb">dm25@aub.edu.lb</a> |
| <b>Virtual office hours:</b> By appointment                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                        |

**Course Description:** This course introduces you to the fundamentals of responsible conduct of research, emphasizing the ethical practice of human and animal research. The course recaps history of ethical principles, the development of research codes of conduct and ethical practices, familiarizes investigators and faculty members with the different kinds of ethical issues that they might come across throughout their careers, and allows scholars to reflect critically about what it means to be an ethical and responsible researcher. In RE&RCR, you will be attending lectures, participating in discussions, analyzing actual case studies and watching audio-visual material. Most importantly you will know how to conduct and assess research from an ethical standpoint.

### Course Objectives:

#### 1. Knowledge

*By the end of the course the student will:*

- Articulate the ethical principles that govern the conduct of research
- Recognize and appreciate the important ethical issues that arise in the practice of research
- Be familiar with the concept of research compliance through the framework of ethical, legal, and policy considerations that impact the practice of scientific research

#### 2. Attitude

*By the end of the course the student will:*

- Be sensitized to common ethical dilemmas that might arise in research
- Appreciate the role of the Institutional Review Board and its relevance to the conduct of clinical research among different health-care professionals.
- Develop awareness of, and respect for, the values and perspectives of others.

#### 3. Behavior

*By the end of the course the student will:*

- Appreciate how research integrity is defined and guided by ethical principles and practices
- Assume personal responsibility for the conduct of ethical research in which they participate

**Learning Outcomes:**

*Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:*

- Discuss the main principles of bioethics and how they ought to be applied in the ethical conduct of research.
- Identify and analyze issues that arise within the context of human subject research.
- Defend (Justify) the ethical position that you take vis-à-vis a certain controversy that you might face in research.
- Incorporate ethical practices into the planning, conduct and reporting of research activities

**Course Resources:**

There are no required textbooks for this class. Selections from books, journals and the Internet will be posted on Moodle. Students are required to read the assigned materials for each session.

**Student Assessment:**

|                          | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| CITI                     | 10%               |
| Participation/Attendance | 10%               |
| Course Project           | 45%               |
| Mock IRB Assignment      | 35%               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>100%</b>       |

- Attendance: Attendance (5%) at all sessions is *required*; however, if an absence is unavoidable, make sure to provide your instructor and course coordinator the appropriate documentation (e.g. doctor’s note, copy of registration from conference, etc.) Since testable material is regularly introduced in lectures, it is impossible to miss class frequently and still do well in the course. Your participation in the discussion forum is also accounted for towards the assessment (5%).
- CITI: You will be required to complete a CITI certificate. Instructions are on Moodle.
- Mock IRB: You will be asked to submit a review form of the protocol with recommendations for grading.

- Course Project: You will be asked to prepare a 10 min video on an RE/RCR topic. Make sure to address the ethical issues. Below is the list of RE/RCR topics. Each group will be assigned a topic on the first day of the course.
- Research with children in areas of conflict
- Consent and genetic research
- Challenges to child consent/ assent participation in research
- Research ethics and biobanks/ biohubs
- Ethics and big data
- Ethical concerns with social media research
- Challenges to informed consent using biospecimens
- Research integrity and good research practice
- International Research in Developing Countries
- Research Ethics in Social and Behavioral Research
- Ethics and Authorship
- Research Ethics Oversight: The special case of the MENA region
- Research Ethics and Migrant Workers
- International Regulations for Research Ethics (coming from the west) when should these be challenged (if at all)
- Would RE regulations be any different if tailored to Arab Culture? How and why?
- Research Colonialism: Ethical Concerns
- Speaking UP: Unethical Research
- Research in areas of protracted conflict (Not children)

**Guest Speakers:**

Dr. Fadia Homeidan, Director of the Office of Grants and Contracts, will give a session on authorship.