

**Plant Sciences 8010
Professionalism and Ethics**

Course Description: Ethical issues in the conduct of scientific research including data integrity, plagiarism, and intellectual property. Scientific writing, lab management, peer review and other professional skills for the life sciences.

Text: None **Credit:** 2 hours **Prerequisite:** Graduate standing
Schedule: 9:00 - 9:50, Tuesday & Thursday, 201 Hill Hall

Instructors:

Dr. Robert Hall
 205 Jesse Hall
 882-9500
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Dr. Jeanne Mihail
 111B Waters Hall
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Syllabus

Date	Topic	Instructor
25 August	Introduction & course mechanics	Mihail
27 August	Laws vs ethics	Hall
1 September	Laws vs ethics	Hall
3 September	Graduate students & mentors	Mihail
8 September	Graduate students & mentors (case study)	Mihail
10 September	Time management	Mihail
15 September	Data acquisition	Mihail
17 September	Data handling	Mihail
22 September	Intellectual property	Hall / Nichols
24 September	Intellectual property	Hall
29 September	Lab relationships	Mihail
1 October	Lab relationships (case study)	Mihail
6 October	Publication practices	Mihail
8 October	Authorship (case study)	Mihail
13 October	Professional writing - grants & abstracts	Mihail
15 October	Professional writing - letters and resumes	Mihail
20 October	Export controls	Hall / May
22 October	Human & animal subjects research	Hall / Kennett
27 October	Human & animal subjects research	Hall / Dale
29 October	Human & animal subjects research	Hall

Date	Topic	Instructor
3 November	Peer review	Mihail
5 November	Conflict of interest	Hall / May
10 November	Conflict of interest	Hall
12 November	How universities work	Hall
17 November	Public face of science	Hall
19 November	Peer review – mock editorial panel	Mihail
23 - 27 Nov	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
1 December	Public face of science	Hall
3 December	Safety issues	Hall / Ashbrook
8 December	Safety issues	Hall / Ashbrook
10 December	Class evaluations (required)	Mihail

Absence from Class:

Where possible, students are responsible for notifying instructors if they will miss a class. Where this is not possible, students should contact the instructors as soon as possible. Students will be responsible for completing missed class work in a timely manner.

Cell Phone Policy:

As a courtesy to fellow students and the instructors, all cell phones must be switched off during lecture and lab periods. Exception: if you are a primary care giver for a minor or ill relative, you may have your cell phone on to receive emergency calls. In this case, if your phone rings, you must leave the room without disturbing others and conduct your personal business outside the classroom.

Academic Honesty:

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Assisting Students with Special Needs:

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class, or at my office.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a notetaker), students must also register with the [Office of Disability Services](http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu), (http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Intellectual Pluralism:

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to either the Departmental Chair or Divisional leader or Director or the Director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](http://osrr.missouri.edu/) (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
< 70%	F

Assignments:

Topic	Assignment
Laws vs ethics	<i>Included in final</i>
Graduate students & mentors	Discussion & case study on 8 Sep 2009
Time Management	Discussion in class
Data acquisition & integrity	Written case study due 17 Sep 2009
Intellectual property	<i>Included in final</i>
Lab relationships	Case study discussion on 1 Oct 2009
Publication practices & authorship	Case study discussion on 8 Oct 2009
Professional writing	Grant & abstract due 27 Oct 2009 Resume & business letter due 29 Oct 2009
Peer review	Written peer review & mock editorial board panel on 19 Nov 2009
Human & animal subjects	<i>Included in final</i>
Export controls	<i>Included in final</i>
Conflict of interest	<i>Included in final</i>
How universities work	<i>Included in final</i>
Public face of science	<i>Included in final</i>
Safety	<i>Included in final</i>

The assignment for each topic will be weighted in the final grade in proportion to the number of class sessions devoted to the topic.

Late Work:

Turning in assignments late will result in reduced credit. For each day that an assignment is late, 10% of earned credit will be deducted. Saturdays and Sundays are included in this calculation.