Syllabus: Biology 553, Ethics

This syllabus is advisory, not definitive. Details may change, and probably will.

BIOL 553 encourages graduate students to face the ethical challenges presented by their research. While philosophical considerations will serve as the foundation to our discussions the class will focus on applied problems rather than ethical theory. Course information is here: http://uibio553.wordpress.com

Instructor
James A. Foster
Professor, Biological Sciences
Email: foster@uidaho.edu
Office Hours: By appointment.

Time and Place
Thursdays 15 Jan to 12 March, 15.30—16.45
AD 227 (or as posted).

Readings
There is no required textbook for the course. Individual readings are assigned (see below).

Attendance and Participation
Attendance is mandatory except for when an absence is excused for medical reasons or when authorized by the University.

Students are required to complete the assigned reading before the scheduled class period and should be prepared to participate in classroom discussions or to answer questions when called upon to do so.

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty is governed by Article II of the University of Idaho's Student Code of Conduct (http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html). Cheating on assignments, including examinations, is a violation of this code. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Individuals guilty of academic dishonesty will be expelled from the course and receive a failing grade. All students should be aware that even one incident of academic dishonesty may also merit expulsion from the University.

Grading
Final grades will be determined by the quality of class contributions and blog participation (http://uibio553.wordpress.com), as assessed by the instructor. My philosophy is to give you the highest grade that won't embarrass either of us. If you want to know how you are doing, ask.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lec</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Jan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Intro and Foundations</td>
<td>Wikipedia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Give examples of right and wrong conduct for a research biologist. Justify.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Jan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Scientific virtues Integrity</td>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
<td>BEACON Virtues toolbox: Intro, purposes of science. In LSS 144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scientific virtues: Curiosity</td>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
<td>BEACON Virtues toolbox: curiosity and integrity In LSS 144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Feb</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Professional ethics</td>
<td>Martinson et al. Yong Ionidis</td>
<td></td>
<td>Should experiments be replicable? reproducible? Why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Feb</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Data sharing</td>
<td>Poisot</td>
<td></td>
<td>Who owns data? For how long? How can others use it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Publish or perish</td>
<td>Cottingham Marusci Venkatraman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Who are the authors? What are their responsibilities? (Guest discussant, Larry Forney)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Feb</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Non-human animal research</td>
<td>Broom Howard Singer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Should we prevent abuse? What is abuse? Why? (Barrie Robison will visit to talk about UI animal use policy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Mar</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics</td>
<td>Hardin Leopold</td>
<td></td>
<td>What are our responsibilities with respect to the environment?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading List

All readings are here: http://people.ibest.uidaho.edu/~foster/pub/Bio553_S15/Readings/


Ioannidis, J. P. A. (2005). Why most published research findings are false. PLoS Medicine, 2(8), e124. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0020124


Singer, P. (2012). All animals are equal. Ethical Theory: an Anthology, 14, 361.


Wikipedia articles on: ethics, virtue ethics, consequentialism, deontology, normative ethics, naturalistic fallacy