

Syllabus: BIOL 553

Ethical Issues in Biological Research

Instructor

Larry J. Forney, Ph.D.
University Distinguished Professor
Email: lforney@uidaho.edu
Office Hours: By appointment (use email)

Time and Place

Time: 14:00 to 15:20 p.m. on Fridays
Dates: January 15 to March 16, 2021
Place: LSS 447C (Fourth floor Conference Room)

Course Objectives

In this course students will be encouraged to understand the ethical challenges that arise in biological research and in the formulation of public policy based on biological data and research findings. Our discussions will focus on applied problems and contemporary issues rather than ethical theory.

Reading Assignments

The schedule of reading assignments is appended to this syllabus. Additionally, students should independently learn more about the topics that will be discussed each week.

Course Structure

Classes will usually begin with a brief and insightful introductory presentation made by a student. These presentations should **not** heavily rely on PowerPoint slides (or comparable software). This presentation should be designed to highlight specific issues and stimulate an inclusive discussion of salient issues.

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to the scheduled class period and should be prepared to participate in classroom discussions and answer questions when called upon to do so.

The class will not meet in the final weeks of the semester (April 2 through May 7). During this time period each student will write a short essay (about 3-4 pages) on a topic of their choosing that is related to any of the topics discussed in class. Note that these essays should not take the form of a review or a critique. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor as they write their essay.

Grades

Final grades will be based on (a) a student's introductory presentation and their leadership of an in-class discussion (20%), (b) participation in in-class discussions (30%) and their essay (50%). The quality of these contributions will be assessed by the instructor.

Attendance

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

Academic Honesty

Cheating on assignments and plagiarism are violations 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.

Academic honesty is governed by Article II of the University of Idaho's Student Code of conduct: www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html

In person class attendance

Refrain from attending class in-person if you are ill, if you are experiencing any of the [known symptoms of coronavirus](#), if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19.

- If you display symptoms and/or test positive, you should quarantine following the CDC's recommendations. Do not return to class until you meet the CDC's requirements.
- If you have been exposed to COVID 19 but are asymptomatic, then you should stay home for 14 days from the last exposure if you remain asymptomatic, adhering to the CDC's requirements.

Please advise the instructor if any of these situations apply so that accommodations can be made so that you will not be penalized for not attending class and so course materials can be made available to on-line.

Student conduct in the classroom

In the classroom, respect for one another and for the instructor is essential for an effective learning environment. Any behavior that is disruptive to the class or deemed by the instructor to be disrespectful to fellow students or the instructor, will not be tolerated. You are expected to show respect to your classmates and instructor by listening when others are speaking, and not belittling the opinions of others, even when you disagree. Behavior intended to embarrass, or ridicule others will not be tolerated.

Respect for your peers also means that there should be no side conversations with fellow students, no texting, no surfing the web, and no other inappropriate use of laptops, tablets or cell phones in class. This would include such things as the use of social media or surfing the web. Cell phones should be silenced during class.

University of Idaho classroom learning civility

Should you feel that classroom interactions do not reflect an environment of civility and respect, you are encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss your concerns. Additional resources for expression of concern or requesting support include the Dean of Students Office (855-6757), the UI Counseling & Testing Center's Confidential Services (855-6716), or the UI Office of Civil Rights and Investigations (855-4285).

Face Covering Requirements

You are required to wear a face covering in the classroom at all times.

- If you have a medical condition that affects your ability to comply with the face covering policy, please contact the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CDAR) to request a reasonable accommodation.
- If you have other reasons you believe make you exempt from wearing face coverings, please contact the COVID-19 Coordinator.
- Failure to wear a face covering over your nose and mouth will require that you leave the classroom immediately. If a disruption to the learning experience occurs due to repeated offenses or egregious behavior, your actions will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.