Ethics and Professional Development  
Psyc 5355     CRN- 27748  
Wednesday 3-5:50 pm     Room: Psychology 310

Instructor: Laura E. O’Dell, Ph.D. (lodell@utep.edu; Office hours= 1-3 Wednesday)

Objective:  1) Ethics: To foster an understanding of the philosophical basis of ethics; to explore the boundaries and constraints on the ethical conduct of scholarship and research; to explore the social aspects of the scientific search for knowledge; and to provide a context for policies relating to the support and conduct of scientific research. 2) Professional Development: To provide an environment that will foster the development of a career plan; to explore possible avenues of employment and how to better position themselves for those goals; and to provide guided mentoring on an appropriate timeline with milestones that are consistent with the student’s long-term goals.

Format: The course involves active participation and class discussions. Students are each responsible for maintaining the highest level of class discussion and dialogue. Ethics are personal, and are shaped by intimate experiences and relationships, familial backgrounds, cultural contexts, and religious and moral beliefs. Classroom discussions are meant to provide a safe, affirming, and supportive environment to explore personal values and ethical assumptions. The goal is to work towards a closer integration of personal and professional ethics that will ultimately promote effective, culturally competent and compassionate practices. Many of the topics will be discussed in the context of specific case studies, examples from news accounts, and memoirs that highlight ethical dilemmas, social conflicts, or political factors impacting the conduct of science. The career development aspects of the course are one-on-one with the faculty; however, student input will also be an important aspect of developing the students’ career goals.

Attendance: You are encouraged to attend all class meetings. If an unforeseen absence arises, please communicate with me as soon as possible and communicate any issues that may limit class participation. I will be traveling on Jan 28 and Feb 25.

Grading:

15%  Job talk assessment reaction paper-During the semester, you will attend a job talk and provide a critical assessment of their presentation (3 pages). This should include both positive and negative feedback. Must be turned in by March 13.
10%  Mid-term assay on a true case history related to your area of science (2 pages). Due March 25.
20%  Journal–Each week you will hand write a 2-3 page journal entry. This is a written reflection of the reading assignment or class discussion. Each week you will turn in your notebook and I will place it by my office door on Monday.
20%  5-year Plan; April 29
15% “Chalk Talk” or “Elevator Speech” presentations; April 29 and May 6
20%  Create a job application package that includes the following: 
   A current CV, statement of teaching philosophy; statement of research goals; names of three references; relevant reprints or pre-prints (no more than three). Due May 11

*You can get 5 extra credit points on your final grade by reading Lean In or Intuition and writing a 2 page summary of the book.
**Ethics:**

**Jan 21-28**  
*Course Introduction and Course Expectations*  
- Origins of ethics in scientific research  
- Scientific method and A Code of Conduct  
- What is Research Misconduct?

**Feb 4 and 11**  
*Professional Behavior and Cultural Bias*  
- Professionalism  
- Mentor/trainee responsibilities  
- Cheating and plagiarism  
- Hiring/Firing  
- Racism and how cultural bias effects science

**Feb 18 and 25**  
*Data Acquisition, Management, and Collaborative Science*  
- Human subjects and animal welfare  
- Fabrication  
- Data inclusion exclusion criteria

**Mar 4 and 18**  
*Dissemination of Scientific Findings*  
- Peer review and publication practices  
- Responsible Authorship  
- Responsible Collaborative Behavior: Collaborative Science

**March 11**  
*No Class; Spring Break*

**March 18 and 25**  
*Money Matters: Funding issues and Ethics with Regard to Money*  
- Grant peer review process  
- Grant writing issues  
- Misuse of grant funds

**Professional Development:**

**April 1 and 8**  
*Choosing a Career Path*  
- Academia versus Industry  
- Preparing a Timeline  
- Vita/Resume Development  
- Work/Life issues

**April 15 and 22**  
*On the Job Market*  
- Academia versus Industry  
- Preparing a Timeline  
- Vita/Resume Development

**April 29 and May 6**  
*Chalk Talk Presentations*