**Instructor**

**Ken Ward**  
Office: 201 Robison Hall  
Phone: 678.1702  
E-mail: kdward@memphis.edu  
Office hours: by appointment

**Course Description**

This is a seminar for all School of Public Health doctoral students that is required during the first or second year of training. It will address a variety of professional issues that are vital to success as a doctoral student and public health professional. A major portion of the course is dedicated to responsible conduct in research. Other topics include public health history, philosophy, and ethics; manuscript and grant writing; reviewing others’ scientific work; delivering poster and oral presentations; developing positive mentor/mentee relationships, and time management.

**Course Prerequisite**

Enrollment as a first- or second-year doctoral student in the School of Public Health

**Learning Objectives**

1. Discuss and critically evaluate scholarly or popular treatments of major developments in the history or philosophy of public health  
2. Apply ethics frameworks to public health decision making  
3. Understand, evaluate, and apply accepted standards of responsible conduct in scientific research  
4. Prepare and deliver effective scientific presentations  
5. Understand effective strategies for identifying grant funding opportunities and writing successful research grants  
6. Critically evaluate the quality of scientific manuscripts submitted for publication  
7. Improve scientific writing skills  
8. Recognize and discuss diverse issues important to educational and professional success  
9. Understand the roles and responsibilities of mentors and mentees  
10. Identify effective time management strategies

**Competencies**

*SBS PhD Competency #5: Analyze and critically apply professional and ethical standards of public health.*

*Epidemiology PhD and Health Systems and Policy PhD Competency #5: 5. Know and appreciate the history, philosophy, and professional and ethical standards of public health.*

**Communication**

All written assignments should be submitted via email to the instructor at kdward@memphis.edu. The instructor will communicate with you, including notifying you when assignments have been received, by email. In accordance with School of Public Health policy, and due to legal, ethical, and privacy concerns, only your official U of M email address will be used for communication. Emails will be sent only to your official U of M email address (UUID@memphis.edu), and will be accepted from you only through that account. It is the student’s responsibility to regularly check this account.
Required Texts


Readings will be assigned in addition to the textbook, as detailed in this syllabus. Links are included in this syllabus to access web-based materials. Web links sometimes change; if a link does not work, enter the resource’s information in a web search engine such as Google, and you are likely to find it. If this does not work, please contact the instructor. Readings and other course materials are available in eCourseware at https://elearn.memphis.edu/d2l/home/8267477

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria
Grading will be based on attendance, participation, various homework assignments, and in-class projects, as described below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reaction papers (total of 10)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance, participation, and in-class assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly discussion questions on readings (total of 10)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral scientific presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reaction papers (30%)**: Students will submit 10 reaction papers based on assigned readings. Papers are due (except as otherwise noted) by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class and should be emailed to the instructor (kdward@memphis.edu). Papers may be submitted late but will be downgraded one checkmark unit (✓+, ✓, or ✓-) for each day or portion of a day that it is late. Try to submit your papers well in advance of the 5:00pm deadline, in anticipation of computer or connectivity problems.

These papers will be responses to case studies presented in the textbook or other readings. Most are responsive to PhD competency 5 (Demonstrate knowledge of the history, philosophy, and professional and ethical standards of public health), as follows: Reaction paper 1 (Peer review), Reaction paper 2 (Authorship), Reaction paper 3 (Plagiarism), Reaction paper 5 (Protecting human research subjects), Reaction paper 6 (Managing competing interests), Reaction paper 7 (research misconduct), Reaction paper 8 (Scientific record-keeping), and Reaction paper 9 (Public health ethics).

The purpose of the reaction papers is to help students think critically about the readings. They also serve as a mechanism to help students improve their writing skills; as such, the instructor will provide feedback on both content and writing style, and students are graded on both content and writing (see rubric, below).

Papers should be 1-2 pages, single-spaced, one-inch margins all around, 11-point font. Student’s name and submission date should appear at the top, in the header. Be sure to pay attention to the overall organization and paragraph structure of your essay. Usually, a well-organized essay will begin with an introductory paragraph that presents the thesis, continue with at least three body paragraphs that flesh out the thesis, and end with a concluding paragraph. There should be clear structure within each paragraph (i.e. a topic sentence, followed by supporting information, then a concluding statement and/or a segue into the next paragraph). Grading is based on both content and quality of writing, so be sure to check over your sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

A checkmark system will be used to grade the reaction papers (✓+, ✓, or ✓-). In calculating the grade, a ✓- corresponds approximately to a number grade of 70%, a ✓ corresponds to a grade of 85%, and a ✓+ to a grade of
Students will submit a total of 10 reaction papers; the lowest grade will be dropped in calculating the grade. Any paper that is not submitted does not qualify for this grade drop, so be sure to submit all papers.

The following rubric explains how grades will be assigned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Passing</th>
<th>✓-</th>
<th>✓</th>
<th>✓+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reaction paper is not submitted.</td>
<td>Reaction paper is submitted on time but is substantially shorter than 1-2 single-spaced pages or has major deficits in either conceptualization (e.g., readings do not appear to have been used or adequately understood) or organization (e.g., poor paragraph structure or segues between paragraphs, grammatical or spelling errors).</td>
<td>Reaction paper is of adequate length, is responsive to the questions, makes adequate use of the assigned readings, and has no major organizational problems.</td>
<td>Reaction paper is of adequate length, is well organized (at a level expected of doctoral level professionals), is responsive to the discussion questions, and goes beyond normal expectations for a beginning doctoral student in terms of quality of critical analysis of relevant issues and use of readings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class attendance & participation (25%): Students are graded on attendance and the quality of participation. Since the course will be delivered remotely, at least during the start of the semester, “attendance” means being on the class Zoom meeting. During most weeks, Dr. Ward or a guest will facilitate the first half of class. The second half of class usually will be facilitated by a seminar student on a topic related to protection of human research subjects. The instructor will assign each student a topic and facilitation week. Students may organize their facilitation as they wish, for example by presenting a brief summary of the material, discussing the material using student-submitted questions, or a class exercise or relevant short video presentation followed by discussion. Students are welcome to consult with the instructor for suggestions on how to facilitate their discussion.

General guidelines for attendance and participation: As a community of scholars, it is expected that the instructor and students will work together at all times to create an atmosphere that fosters shared discovery and mutual respect. The instructor will be prepared for each class meeting, and, likewise, students are expected to “arrive” (i.e., be logged into the Zoom classroom) prepared to ask questions, discuss, and learn. Attendance and active participation are essential to the success of a doctoral seminar such as this. As such, students are expected to be present on Zoom for all classes, log in on time, be present for the entire class session, and participate actively. In the event of an unavoidable absence, please notify the instructor beforehand, if at all possible. Because serious illness or professional responsibilities may occasionally interfere with class attendance, a student may miss one class without penalty. The penalty for a second missed class is 10% of the total course grade. The penalty for a third missed class is an additional 10% of the course grade. A third missed class will make it impossible to achieve a passing course grade, and is therefore grounds for dismissal from the course. Students are responsible for all assignments missed during an absence, such as reaction papers and discussion questions.

Guidelines on classroom behavior (note: relevant only if the University decides to move remote classes to in-class): Several behaviors in the classroom are disruptive and disrespectful to the instructor and other students
and are not acceptable. These include tardiness, leaving early, use of electronic devices, and engaging in side conversations while others are talking. If arriving late or leaving early is unavoidable, notify the instructor in advance, if possible. Set your cell phone to silent if you must be available for an emergency. Students who engage in any of these disruptive behaviors may be asked to leave and not allowed to return until a meeting with the instructor has occurred during which a plan to avoid future problems has been worked out.

The following rubric will be used to grade classroom performance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria considered in grading:</th>
<th>Not Passing</th>
<th>“C” Level</th>
<th>“B” Level</th>
<th>“A” Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance</td>
<td>Substantially late to or absent from class; no advance explanation provided. (Note: absence from class means no participation credit is earned for that session).</td>
<td>Arrives late to class at least occasionally.</td>
<td>Arrives on time, is seated and ready to begin at class start time.</td>
<td>Arrives on time, is seated and ready to begin at class start time, immediately ceases other activities at the time the class actually starts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention</td>
<td>Noticeably off-task during a portion of the class and/or distracts others. Examples include, but are not limited to, attending to non-class matters (checking e-mails, texting, and/or using a laptop for any task not directly relevant to what’s going on in the class at the moment), cellphone noise, off-topic conversations/passing notes/texts</td>
<td>Occasionally inattentive, such as engaging in side conversations or other off-task activities. Cellphone noise is occasionally heard during class.</td>
<td>Generally attentive with most conversations focused on the in-class discussion. Rarely introduces peripheral noises or distractions (cellphones and other devices).</td>
<td>Conversations are focused on the in-class discussion. No peripheral noises or distractions (cellphones and other devices).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Does not ask/answer any questions; does not make comments (or relevant comments) during the session; or significantly derails the agenda of the class.</td>
<td>Does not contribute to class discussion, or participates but comments are off-topic and/or reflective of a lack of preparation (e.g. asking questions that the readings already clearly addressed).</td>
<td>Contributes at a good level (but without dominating); contributions add to (do not derail) the class discussion.</td>
<td>Contributions augment / add to comments from peers; synthesizes / incorporates readings and assignments into the class discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional demeanor</td>
<td>Professionalism is lacking in one or more major ways (e.g. uses derogatory and/or other highly unprofessional language).</td>
<td>Professionalism is lacking in one or more minor ways (e.g. use of slang and/or marginally disrespectful or arrogant language).</td>
<td>Class participation reflects a good level of professionalism.</td>
<td>Class participation reflects a noticeably high level of professionalism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Book review (25%)*: Students are to select a book to review that addresses an important historical, philosophical, or ethical issue in public health research and practice. This assignment partially fulfills PhD competency 5 (Demonstrate knowledge of the history, philosophy, and professional and ethical standards of public health). A
A book may be selected from the list attached to the end of this syllabus. Alternatively, another relevant book may be selected, with permission of the instructor. The goal of the assignment is to critically evaluate a scholarly or popular contribution in public health. Reviews should be 3-4 double-spaced pages (approximately 1000 words), 11-point font, one-inch margins all around. Remember that correct grammar and spelling are important in any professional document, and will be considered in grading the book review. A suggested organizational scheme is as follows:

1) Introduction (1-2 paragraphs): Brief overview of the book’s content and purpose. What is the topic of the book, as well as its historical context and importance? What is the theme, orientation, or philosophy that informs the author’s perspective?

2) Summary of the content (About 2 pages): Provide a brief summary of the key points/theses of the book; this is usually organized by chapter or section.

3) Evaluation and conclusions (About 1-1.5 pages): Critically evaluate the author’s major theses. Are the author’s arguments well-supported? What are the book’s main strengths and weaknesses? To whom would you recommend the book? Students may make reference to other published reviews of the book as a way to compare and contrast their reactions.

Weekly discussion questions on readings (10%): Before the start of each class, students should email the instructor (kdward@memphis.edu) 2-3 discussion questions based on that week’s readings. These questions will be used to guide discussion for that class. Please try to email your questions at least a couple hours before class so I have time to read and print them.

Here are some tips on writing high quality discussion questions:

1) When reading the article, take notes and outline its major points. Ask yourself: What is the major “take home” point of the article? What is the author’s thesis; do the facts presented support the thesis, or are the suggestions given in the article useful?

2) Think of questions that interest you personally and as a public health professional.

3) Think of why and how questions, instead of who, when, or where questions. How and why are more interesting, complex, and discussion-focused, whereas who, when, and where are more simple, close-ended, and less discussion-focused.

4) Avoid vague questions (e.g., “Do you think the findings are valid?” “What is the author’s main point?” or “How could the study have been done differently?”) – these do not inspire discussion.

5) Avoid very specific and obvious questions (“Was the authors’ hypothesis supported?” “What was the major finding?” “What are the study’s limitations?”) – the answers to such questions can be gleamed from a cursory reading of the article and they tend to generate brief responses rather than discussion.

6) High quality discussion questions help readers see patterns and connections or contradictions across readings. For example, how do the findings fit in with the existing body of literature? What are the study’s implications for existing public health research or practice? How does the theme or implications of a certain paper compare or contrast with another assigned paper?

A checkmark system will be used to grade the discussion questions (√-, √, or √+). In calculating the grade, a √- corresponds to a number grade of 70%, a √ corresponds to a grade of 85%, and a √+ to a grade of 100%.

The following rubric explains how grades will be assigned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Passing</th>
<th>√-</th>
<th>√</th>
<th>√+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion questions not submitted, or submitted late.</td>
<td>Fewer than two questions are submitted, questions are not relevant to the readings,</td>
<td>2 or 3 questions are submitted, they capture important points from a majority of the readings,</td>
<td>2 or 3 questions are submitted, they capture important points from all or most of the readings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
or questions do not lend themselves easily to discussion (e.g., are of the "yes" or "no" variety, or query about factual information from the readings).

they are relevant to the readings, and lend themselves to discussion (e.g., are not "esoteric" and focus on issues especially relevant to graduate public health training.

and/or highlights common themes across the readings, and lend themselves to discussion (e.g., are not "esoteric" and focus on issues especially relevant to graduate public health training.

Oral scientific presentation (10%): To help improve oral presentation skills, each student will deliver a 15 minute oral presentation, based on his/her own research. The student will have 10 minutes to present content followed by 5 minutes for questions and feedback. Expectations will be discussed in class. Students also will submit checklist evaluations of other students’ presentations, and provide oral feedback during class. By Session 7 (October 5th) you are expected to submit your topic to the instructor for approval. Students should prepare a copy of their presentation slides (ideally, a PDF handout containing 6 slides per page) to distribute to other students and the instructor at their presentation.

Additional requirement for doctoral students who do not possess the MPH degree

The Council on Education for Public Health requires that all students pursuing an academic doctoral degree demonstrate competency in the foundations of public health. Competency is typically demonstrated by having earned the MPH degree. For doctoral students who do not possess the MPH, the School of Public Health has developed online modules that will serve as an introduction for PhD students to gain foundational knowledge in the field and profession of public health. Review of these modules is required of all doctoral students who have not already earned an MPH degree. The modules are self-paced and provide brief assessments at the conclusion of each one. Students must answer 80% of the items correctly of each module to pass, and may take the assessment as many times as needed to obtain 80% passage rate. While no university credit is earned by reviewing the modules, a grade of “pass/fail” will be awarded to each student. Topic areas include the Profession and Science of Public Health and Factors Related to Human Health.

Grading Scale

The letter grades for each requirement are assigned using the following grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Percentage Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥96%</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>A–</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>C–</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>B–</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Promoting a Positive Learning Environment

The School of Public Health recognizes its responsibility to promote a safe and diversity-sensitive learning environment that respects the rights, dignity, and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff. Diversity means the fair representation of all groups of individuals, the inclusion of contrasting perspectives and voices, together with the appreciation and valuing of different cultural and socioeconomic group practices. Moreover, we aspire to foster a climate of mutual respect and empathy, among and between students, faculty, and staff, by nurturing an atmosphere that is free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Courses will strive to
provide an opportunity for all students to openly discuss issues of diversity including, but not limited to, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religious beliefs, and sexual orientation.

Writing Standards
Effective managers, leaders, and teachers are also effective communicators. Written communication is an important element of the communication process. The School of Public Health graduate program recognizes and expects exemplary writing to be the norm for course work.

Academic Conduct
All written work submitted must be the student’s original work and conform to the guidelines of the American Medical Association (AMA) or American Psychological Association (APA) which are available online and via their publications. This means that any substantive ideas, phrases, sentences, and/or graphic images, from other people’s published or unpublished work, must be properly referenced to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full or clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. It is the student’s responsibility to know all relevant university policies concerning plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious violation of the professional standards of public health. Any documented case of plagiarism in this course will result in dismissal from the course with a failing grade, and may result in other more serious sanctions by the School of Public Health and The University of Memphis.

Cheating is not acceptable at The University of Memphis. Cheating includes but is not limited to the following: using any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes or tests; acquiring tests or other academic material before such material is revealed or distributed by the instructor; failing to abide by the instructions of the proctor concerning test taking procedures; influencing, or attempting to influence, any university employee in order to affect a student’s grade or evaluations; any forgery, alteration, unauthorized possession, or misuse of University documents.

Awarding an Incomplete Grade
A grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be assigned by the instructor of any course in which the student is unable to complete the work due to EXTRAORDINARY events beyond the individual’s control. The “I” may not be used to extend the term for students who complete the course with an unsatisfactory grade. Unless the student completes the requirements for removal of the “I” within 90 days from the end of the semester or summer term in which it was received, the “I” will be changed to an “F,” regardless of whether or not the student is enrolled.

Withdrawal Policy
The School of Public Health adheres to Graduate School policies and procedures regarding withdrawal from courses. Consult the Graduate School Dates & Deadlines Calendar for specific information. A late withdrawal is withdrawal from a course after the final date to drop classes, which falls around the middle of each semester. The drop is called a retroactive withdrawal if it takes place after grades have been issued. Before the drop deadline, students can process a drop on the web or over the phone without seeking anyone else’s approval. The instructor, however, will appreciate the courtesy of being notified if you decide to drop the course. After the final drop date, the student must obtain approval for late drops or retroactive withdrawal from the Director of Graduate Studies of the School of Public Health. Instructors are not authorized to approve late drops or retroactive withdrawals.

Americans with Disabilities Act
The University of Memphis does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the recruitment and admission of students, the recruitment and employment of faculty and staff, and the operation of any of its programs and activities, as specified by federal laws and regulations. The student has the responsibility of informing the course instructor at the beginning of the course of any disabling condition, which will require modification to avoid
discrimination. Faculty are required to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Special Needs
Any student who has special needs for assistance and/or accommodation, and who is registered with the Office of Student Disability Services should meet with the instructor during the first week of classes.

Inclement Weather Policy
In the event that inclement weather requires the cancellation of classes at the University of Memphis, local radio and television media will be notified and the status of classes will be posted on the University website. Additionally, the University of Memphis has established an inclement weather hotline 901-678-0888.
# Schedule of Topics and Assignments

| Week 1 – August 17 | - Course overview  
| - Setting the stage (facilitated by Ken) |

**Required readings:**  

**Assignment due – nothing! But please be prepared to discuss the required readings**

| Week 2 – August 24 | - Advancing public health science: participating in the peer review process (facilitated by Ken)  
| - Mentoring (facilitated by Ken) |

**Required readings on peer review:**  

**Required readings on mentoring:**  

**Assignment due – submit discussion questions by email (kward@memphis.edu) prior to class.**

**Assignment due – Reaction paper #1 (1-2 single spaced pages):** Select either case 4.4 or 4.6 from chapter 4 of the Macrina textbook (pp. 123-129); do not respond to any of the other cases in this chapter. Please e-mail your paper to kward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.

| Week 3 – August 31 | - “Critically evaluating the scientific literature“ (guest presentation by Dr. Vikki Nolan)  
| - Authorship (facilitated by student) |
**Required reading for Dr. Nolan’s presentation:**

To be assigned

**Required readings on authorship:**

- Journal of the American Medical Association (n.d). JAMA authorship responsibility, conflicts of interest and funding, and copyright transfer/publishing agreement. [http://jama.jamanetwork.com/data/ifora-forms/jama/auinst_crit.pdf](http://jama.jamanetwork.com/data/ifora-forms/jama/auinst_crit.pdf)

**Assignment due – submit discussion questions by email (kdward@memphis.edu) prior to class.**

**Assignment due –** Please select a book to review that concerns a historically important public health issue or ethical/philosophical issue, and email the title/author of the book to kdward@memphis.edu by 5:00 on the Sunday preceding class. See instructions on pp. 4-5. The selected book can be one from the list at the end of this syllabus, or another one of your own choosing. All selections must be approved by the instructor.

**Assignment due – Reaction paper #2 (1-2 single spaced pages):** Select one of the following Macrina case studies from Chapter 4: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, or 4.10 (pp. 123-129), do not respond to cases 4.4. or 4.6. Please email your paper to kdward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.

---

**September 7**

- No class: Labor Day

**Week 4 – September 14**

- Causal inference in public health: Guest presentation by Dr. Jim Gurney
- Plagiarism (facilitated by Ken)

**Required readings on causal inference in public health:**


**Required readings on plagiarism:**

Assignment due – submit discussion questions by email (kdward@memphis.edu) prior to class.

Assignment due – After doing the readings on plagiarism, go to the website http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/plagiarism/quiz-plagiarism and complete the quiz. For each of the 10 items, select a response until you identify the correct answer. When you have completed the quiz, print and scan the results and email to the instructor (kdward@memphis.edu) by the start of class.

Assignment due – Reaction paper #3 (1-2 single spaced pages): Choose one of the following topics:

- Write a reaction paper based on the Flaherty case study, and respond to the following questions: Does the case described constitute plagiarism? Why or why not? Does the punishment fit the crime? What recommendations would you make to Professor Ryan to prevent a similar mishap in the future?

- Respond to the Yang et al. intervention study to reduce plagiarism. First, provide a brief critical analysis of the research described in the paper, summarizing the most important issues that support or challenge the paper’s internal and external validity, as you might do in a peer review of a manuscript. Next, reflect on the extent to which the plagiarism intervention might be (or not be) useful to you and fellow students.

Please e-mail your reaction paper to kdward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.
Please also read one of the four following articles to which you were assigned by the instructor. Two students will be assigned to each article and will jointly lead a brief class discussion on it. In addition, each student will write the weekly reaction paper based on the assigned case (see below).


This is not required reading but is a website something you may want to refer to in the future. It presents numerous (at last count, 69) rationalizations that are often used to justify unethical behavior:


Required readings on academic scams:


Assignment due – submit discussion questions by email (kdward@memphis.edu) prior to class.

Assignment due – Reaction paper #4 (1-2 single spaced pages): Write an essay based on the misconduct/fraud reading to which you were assigned. You also may reference other readings if you would like. You are free to answer some or all of the questions, or to come up with other questions you find more interesting:

Based on the Bartlett reading, what is the “replicability crisis”? Is this just a problem for psychology? How big of a problem do you judge it to be in your own field of study? On what do you base this judgement? Are you more sympathetic to the “data thugs” or their skeptics, such as Richard Nisbett? What solutions would you offer to fix this problem?

Or

Based on the Bhattacharjee reading, what factors do you think led Diederik Stapel to commit fraud? Who was harmed and in what ways? What consequences did Stapel incur and were they just? What risks, if any, did his students face by reporting his misconduct? How do you think you would have handled this had you been his student?

Or

Based on the NPR reading, briefly discuss the particulars of the case against the Harvard professor. Did the
professor commit scientific misconduct? If yes, what type? Is the Chinese government at fault? Why are cases related to the “Chinese Initiative” not always straightforward, according to the article? What policy changes should universities and/or the U.S. government make to prevent situations such as this?

Or

From the Robin & Gabler reading, discuss why the two COVID-19 studies were retracted. Who and/or what was at fault? Does this constitute scientific misconduct? If so, what type? Check the popular press to see if there have been any updates to this case since Robin & Gabler published their news article on June 4th. Should any consequences be levied against the investigators? If so, what kind? What needs to be done to prevent this kind of mishap in the future?

Please e-mail your paper to kdward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.

---

**Week 6 – September 28**

- Guest presenter: Ms. Kellie Watson, Research Compliance Coordinator, Division of Research and Innovation, University of Memphis (IRB and research compliance)
- Protecting human research subjects (facilitated by Ken)

**Required readings for Ms. Watson’s presentation:**


Review “Human Subjects Research Protocol Submission” and “Researcher Resources” links at the Division of Research and Innovation webpage: [https://www.memphis.edu/research/researchers/compliance/irb/cayuse_irb.php](https://www.memphis.edu/research/researchers/compliance/irb/cayuse_irb.php)

**Required readings on protecting human research subjects:**

Bertholf, R.L. (2001). Protecting human research subjects. *Annals of Clinical & Laboratory Science, 31*, 119-127. *(I recommend that you read this article first to help orient you to the other readings).*


**Assignment due – submit discussion questions by email (kdward@memphis.edu) prior to class.**

**Assignment due – Reaction paper #5 (1-2 single spaced pages):** Choose one of the following:

- Respond to one Macrina case study 5.1 – 5.10 (pp. 159-163),
Or

Compare and contrast the four human subjects protection documents that you read this week (U.S. Code 45 C.F.R. §46.101, Belmont Report, Nuremberg Code, Declaration of Helsinki). What different contextual factors led to the creation of each of them? What principles do they share, and where do they diverge in terms of priorities or relative emphasis? Please e-mail your paper to kdward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.

Week 7 – October 5
- Delivering scientific presentations (facilitated by Ken)
- Competing interests (facilitated by student)

Required readings on poster presentations:

Required readings on oral presentations:

Required readings on competing interests:

Assignment due – submit discussion questions by email (kdward@memphis.edu) prior to class.

Assignment due – Topic for oral scientific presentation due. Please submit a title for the presentation and a brief outline (no more than a single paragraph) of your talk's content. Please email your edits to kdward@memphis.edu by 5:00 on the Sunday preceding class.

Assignment due – Reaction paper #6 (1-2 single spaced pages): Select one: Macrina case studies 7.1 – 7.10 (pp. 235-239). Please e-mail your paper to kdward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.

Week 8 – October 12
- Scientific writing skills (MPH students enrolled in PUBH 7180, Foundations of Public Health, will join us for this presentation by Dr. Ward)
- Collaboration (facilitated by student)

Required readings on scientific writing skills:


Zaretsky, R. Our students can’t write: we have ourselves to blame. The Chronicle of Higher Education. [https://www.chronicle.com/article/Our-Students-Can-t-Write-We/246385](https://www.chronicle.com/article/Our-Students-Can-t-Write-We/246385).

**Required readings on collaboration:**


Assignment due – submit discussion questions related to the topic of collaboration by email (kward@memphis.edu) prior to class.

**Assignment due – Reaction paper #7 (1-2 single spaced pages):**

Select one: Macrina case studies 8.1 – 8.10 (pp. 276-283). Please e-mail your paper to kward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.

| Week 9 – October 19 | - Grantsmanship and Obtaining Funding: Guest presentation by Dr. Wilfried Karmaus
|                     | - Scientific record-keeping (led by student) |

**Required readings on obtaining funding:**


“Types of grant programs.” (n.d.). National Institutes of Health. [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm) (Please read this page and peruse some of the links).


*(This article, by Hoppe et al., is not required, but is listed in case you’re interested in an empirical look at racial disparities in NIH funding)*:


**Required readings on scientific record-keeping:**


**Assignment due – submit discussion questions by email (kward@memphis.edu) prior to class.**

**Assignment due – Reaction paper #8 (1-2 single spaced pages):**

Select one: Macrina case studies 10.1 – 10.10 (pp. 351-357). Please e-mail your paper to kward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.
**Week 10 – October 26**  
- Student oral presentations (Part 1)  
- Public health ethics (facilitated by student)

**Required Readings for public health ethics:**

**Assignment due -- submit discussion questions by email (kdward@memphis.edu) prior to class.**

**Assignment due -- Reaction paper #9 (1-2 single spaced pages):** Pick your favorite current controversial public health policy topic. Some examples are: How do we balance public health and individual rights during a time of pandemic? Should parents be required to immunize their children? Should motorcycle drivers be forced to wear helmets? Is it acceptable to deny young adults (18-20 year olds) the right to purchase tobacco? Do U.S. citizens have a “right” to healthcare? Should we reduce the serving sizes of sugar-sweetened fountain beverages to prevent obesity? Should recreational marijuana use be legalized? Should antibiotics be more stringently restricted to prevent multidrug-bacterial resistance? Should research using human fetal tissue be banned? Briefly describe the issue, then make a case for a public health intervention/policy to address the issue using each of the five “justifications for public health policies” described in Section 2 of the Faden & Shebaya reading (Public Health Ethics, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy). Note: These are complex problems with complex solutions, and I’m not expecting a major philosophical treatise, but rather a well-crafted, 1-2-page essay that demonstrates your ability to apply the ethical constructs you read about to a current problem.

**Week 11 – November 2**  
- Student oral presentations (Part 2)  
- Time management (led by student)

**Required readings on time management:** (please at least skim each of the 10 brief essays by Susan Johnson – they are a quick read and likely to be helpful)
Assignment due – submit discussion questions by email (kdward@memphis.edu) prior to class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12 – November 9</th>
<th>- Book review reports (student presentations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No assigned readings this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assignment due – Book review. Please email your assignment to <a href="mailto:kdward@memphis.edu">kdward@memphis.edu</a> by the start of class today, and be prepared to lead a brief discussion of it during class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 13 – November 16</th>
<th>- Surviving graduate school: Roundtable discussion with senior doctoral students, moderated by Adam Alexander, PhD ‘18, and Assistant Professor, Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center, Oklahoma City, OK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- CV prep and preparing for the job market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required readings on surviving graduate school:**


**Required readings on curriculum vitae preparation:**


**These readings on preparing for the job market are recommended, but not required:**


Assignment due – Reaction paper #10 (1-2 single spaced pages): At this point in your professional training, what kind of career do you envision for yourself five years after completing your PhD? Have these goals changed since you entered the PhD program? What are some of your accomplishments that have placed you on a solid track for that career? What could you do differently to better prepare yourself, and what are some concrete steps to get there? Please e-mail your paper to kdward@memphis.edu by 5:00pm on the Sunday preceding class.

Please have a copy of your CV handy that you can share with the class.
### Books for review assignment

Students may select one of these books, or choose another (with instructor permission)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher, year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernard, Claude</td>
<td>An Introduction to the Study of Experimental Medicine</td>
<td>Dover Publications, 1957/1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandt, Allan M.</td>
<td>The Cigarette Century: The rise, fall, and deadly persistence of the product that defined America</td>
<td>Basic Books, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crosby, Molly Caldwell</td>
<td>The American Plague: the untold story of yellow fever, the epidemic that shaped our history</td>
<td>The Berkeley Publishing Group, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galea, Sandro</td>
<td>Well: What we need to talk about when we talk about health</td>
<td>Oxford University Press, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garrett, Laurie</td>
<td>Betrayal of Trust: the collapse of global public health</td>
<td>Hyperion, New York, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotzsche, Peter C.</td>
<td>Deadly Medicines and Organized Crime: how big pharma has corrupted healthcare</td>
<td>Radcliffe Publishing Ltd, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton, Alice</td>
<td>Exploring the dangerous trades: the autobiography</td>
<td>Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardy, Anne</td>
<td>The epidemic streets: infectious disease and the rise of preventive medicine, 1856-1900.</td>
<td>Oxford University Press, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horton, Richard</td>
<td>The COVID-19 catastrophe: what’s gone wrong and how to stop it happening again</td>
<td>Polity, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Steven</td>
<td>The Ghost Map: the story of London’s most terrifying epidemic—and how it changed science, cities, and the modern world</td>
<td>Riverhead Books, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kluger, Richard</td>
<td>Ashes to Ashes: America’s hundred-year cigarette war, the public health, and the unabashed triumph of Phillip Morris.</td>
<td>Vintage Books, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krieger, Nancy</td>
<td>Epidemiology and the People’s Health: theory and context</td>
<td>Oxford University Press, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mills, C. Wright</td>
<td>The Sociological Imagination</td>
<td>Oxford University Press, 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Publisher/Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offit, Paul A.</td>
<td>Autism’s False Prophets: bad science, risky medicine, and the search for a cure</td>
<td>Columbia University Press, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shilts, Randy</td>
<td>And the Band Played On: politics, people, and the AIDS epidemic</td>
<td>Stonewall Inn Editions, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skloot, Rebecca</td>
<td>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</td>
<td>Broadway Books, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinney, Laura</td>
<td>Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and how it changed the world</td>
<td>Hachette Book Group, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taubes, Gary</td>
<td>The Case Against Sugar</td>
<td>Alfred A. Knopf, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinsser, Hans</td>
<td>Rats, Lice, and History: A bacteriologist’s classic history of mankind’s epic struggle to conquer the scourge of typhus.</td>
<td>Little, Brown and Company, 1963/1934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>