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| **COURSE LEVEL** | **COURSE CODE** | **COURSE TITLE** | **CONTACT PERIODS** | | | | | |
| **LH** | **Cl.H** | **TH** | **PH** | **CH** | **CU** |
| Yr1Sem2 | CDC9121 | Research Ethics | 20 | 00 | 20 | 15 | 45 | 3 |

**Course Description**

Through a combination of theory and practice, during this course student will critically analyze research ethics topics and case studies and learn how to manage and evaluate a research project, all the way from design to publication, from an ethical standpoint. Importantly, during this dynamic course, students will also be encouraged to reflect on the impact of new technologies and social trends on research ethics and discuss their ideas on how to build adequate codes of conduct to regulate research activity.

**Course Justification/Rationale**

Research ethics is topical and relevant today. Although conducting research is quite fascinating, it is a challenging activity that involves ethical issues such as bias, fraud, plagiarism, conflicts of interest, falsification of research results, informed consent, and attribution of authorship and adequacy of peer review publication processes. By understanding and critically debating research ethics-specific issues, students will assimilate the importance of scientific integrity while acquiring key reasoning skills that will significantly increase the scientific quality and impact of their future research.

**Course Objectives**

The course aims at promoting integrity in research. This will be achieved because of its centrality on professionalism and integrity in research right from planning, conducting, reporting, and reviewing of research. Specifically, the course targets;

1. To instill research ethics among participants to better address any risks and benefits of the research.
2. To expose participants to main ethical standards, and outline the operations and review process that research ethics committees follow.
3. To provide scholars with a better understanding of the need to demonstrate integrity in research and in the mentoring of others.
4. To help trainees identify other ethical challenges in many dimensions of research and learn how to address them.

**Learning Outcomes**

At completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Inculcate responsible relationships between researchers and those that will be affected by their research
2. Appreciate, respect and recognize human participants and their value in the research process
3. Follow research ethical guidelines that will promote responsible conduct of research in their institutions and country.
4. Resist from violation of research guidelines and regulations such as abuse of confidentiality, intellectual property rights, data ownership appraisals and publication procedures.
5. To manage research conflicts by recognizing the potential conflict of interests among researchers and authors.

**Course Content**

* Fundamentals of Ethics: (8 Hrs)
  + Respect for autonomy; Beneficence; nonmaleficence; justice
* The History of Research Ethics (8 Hrs)
  + Why ethics in research involving human subjects; Major historical events that have shaped research involving human subjects; Case Studies; Belmont Principles; Current ethical standards for research
* Responsible Conduct of Research (7 Hrs)
  + Core norms, principles, regulations, and rules governing the practice of research
* Scientific Misconduct (8 Hrs)
  + Fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; questionable practices
* Conflicts of interest and Publishing biases (7 Hrs)
* Ethical Planning and Conduction of a Research Project (7 Hrs)

**Teaching – Learning Methods**

* Lectures/Discussion
* Group Demonstrations
* Class Presentation
* Self-Directed learning

**Teaching and Learning Facilities**

* Lecture facilities
* Class Rooms
* White boards / markers / cleaners
* LCD Projectors, various forms from the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)

**Assessment Strategies**

* Continuous Assessment Tests **40**%
* End of Semester Examinations **60**%
* Total **100**%

**Recommended Reading and Study Materials**

1. Gluck, J.P., Dipasquale, T., Orlans, F.B. 2002. Applied Ethics in Animal Research: Philosophy, Regulation, and Laboratory Applications. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2002.
2. World Medical Association. 2002. Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects. Helsinki, Finland: (available at: http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm)
3. Long, T. & Johnson, M. 2006. Research Ethics in the Real World: Issues and Solutions for Health and Social Care Professionals. Elsevier