PHIL 6000B1: Responsible Conduct of Research - Summer 2015
(This syllabus is based on PHIL6000B1/Spring 2015 by Jason Borenstein, Ph.D.)

Instructor: Tibor Besedeš   **E-mail**: besedes@gatech.edu
Meeting days: 12:00PM-2:35PM, daily, May 11-May 15
Location: MSE 1222
Office Location: Old CE Building 321   **Phone Number**: (404) 385-0512
Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Background: The primary aim of this course is to identify and discuss ethical challenges that graduate students confront relating to their research. Topics addressed include those recognized by U.S. federal agencies and Georgia Tech as crucial to being a responsible researcher. This course satisfies GT RCR Academic Policy for Doctoral Students' requirement for "in-person" training (note: laboratory safety is not covered in this course).

* If you need to complete online CITI RCR training, the website is: http://www.rcr.gatech.edu/online-training/

Format: The course will primarily consist of a series of short lectures introducing students to key background concepts and issues in the realm of research ethics and group presentations.

Required Readings: Presentation slides will be available on T-square. Included in the slides are links to articles and case studies that will be discussed in the course.

Course Requirements: The course is for one credit and may be taken on a pass/fail basis only. To receive a passing grade, each student must:

(1) Attend the entire course; this will constitute 20% of your final grade. If a student has to miss a class, the student must contact the instructor ***prior to the day of the absence*** (unless the absence is due to illness) so that he can determine whether it will be considered excused. If an absence is considered excused by the instructor, the student must provide proper documentation within one week of returning to class (for example, a physician's note for an illness). Students will have to write make-up paper(s) for any class time that is excused. Missing class time for an unexcused reason will result in a failing grade.

(2) Participate in a group presentation; this will constitute 40% of your final grade. Each group should have ~6 members (there should be no more than eight groups). Each member must make a roughly equal contribution to the development of the presentation. A list of topics will be posted on T-square and a sign-up sheet will distributed during class. The presentation should be approximately 10 minutes and must be based on the article(s) listed for that topic. The presentation must have some form of visual element (powerpoint is one possibility but the specific format is flexible). ***Original work is required***; using someone else's work or one's own previous work will result in a failing grade. To earn a satisfactory grade, **the presentation must include the following elements**:

> (a) an explanation of the topic in the group's own words;
> (b) the identification of the main ethical issues relating to the topic;
> (c) articulating and defending a solution to the ethical issues; and
> (d) answering questions from the class about the presentation.

(3) Write a short, original response paper on a main ethical issue discussed in the course; this will constitute 40% of your final grade. The paper must be submitted on T-square no later than 5pm on Wednesday, June 17th. The topic of your paper and your group presentation must not be the same. The paper should be approximately 150-250 words. ***Original work is required, which entails explaining***

ideas and concepts in your own words. Quoting or close paraphrasing from a source *is not permitted*; however, any referenced information *must be cited properly within your paper*. Plagiarism and/or collaboration on the paper are violations of the Honor Code and may result in a failing grade. A failing grade for the course may also be received if the paper is not submitted on time or if it is too repetitive, difficult to follow, too informal, and/or on a topic that is not suitable for the assignment.

Academic Integrity and Student Rights & Responsibilities: Each student in the course is expected to familiarize themselves with and uphold Georgia Tech's Honor Code and Student Code of Conduct. A list of student and faculty expectations is also available in the GT Catalog. If you have any questions or concerns relating to these policies, refer to the relevant websites or consult with the instructor.

* The syllabus provides a general framework for the course; on rare occasions, changes may become necessary.

** If you have any learning disabilities, contact the ADAPTS office at (404) 894-2564, refer to http://www.adapts.gatech.edu, and/or consult with the instructor as needed.

*** If you have any personal or academic difficulties, contact the Counseling Center at (404) 894-2575, refer to http://www.counseling.gatech.edu, and/or consult with the instructor as needed.

Course Schedule and Topics

- **May 11:**
  Introduction and Ethical Concepts
  Mentoring and Collaborative Research
  Data Management
  Group Presentation Sign-ups

- **May 12:**
  Conflict of Interest and Commitment
  Animal Subjects Research
  Human Subjects Research

- **May 13:**
  Authorship and Publication
  Peer Review
  Group Meeting Time

- **May 14:**
  Research Misconduct
  Science, Mathematics, and Engineering in Society

- **May 15:**
  Group Presentations
  Concluding Thoughts