



**Déontologie des études sociales  
Ethics in Social Science Research  
(Draft Syllabus)**

**Teaching Staff:**

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**Course Description:**

This course focuses on the ethics of social science research. It will cover some examples of the troublesome history of scientific research and the modern institutional policies designed to prevent future abuses. The course will also cover some of the subtle ethical dilemmas that occur in designing experiments, including how views differ between disciplines. Case discussions and ethics evaluations of experiments, including some proposed by students, will add to lectures on ethics related material.

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

Active participation and engagement in this course should enable students to:

- Recognize ethical issues in conducting social science research
- Evaluate the ethics of an experimental design
- Design an experiment that can be conducted according to ethical research standards
- Develop a submission for an ethical review of an experiment
- Recognize ethical issues in business related to the use of customer data or in conducting business research
- Critically reflect on the options for ensuring the ethical treatment of customers and stakeholders in business.

*... ultimately, to become capable of recognizing and conducting ethical research in academia and business*

**Course Schedule:**

The class will meet every Monday from 12:30 to 2:00. From January 16 until March 27 excepting the vacation week in February (Feb 27)

### Course Outline:

Date	Topic & Format	Preparation Before Class (subjected to changes)
Jan 16	Normative Ethics – How do we decide right from wrong?	None
Jan 23	Behavioural Ethics – What prevents us from doing what we think is right?	Decision making exercise (60-90 mins)
Jan 30	History – Examples of Problems in Research	Video – Stanford Prison Experiment (~60 mins)
Feb 6	Modern History – Current issues in research ethics	Read Ethics and Integrity in the Publishing Process-Myths, Facts, and a Roadmap and Retraction Statement for Ethics and Integrity in the Publishing Process
<b>Vacation Week (No Class Feb27)</b>		
Feb 13	Evaluating Experiments  <b>Class discussion</b>	Read a Brief research proposal
Feb 20	Evaluating Experiments  <b>Student presentations &amp; feedback</b>	Prepare brief research proposal to present (~5-10 mins for the presentation)
Mar 6	Preparing Ethical Research – introduction to the IRB process	Read The Belmont Report, the Helsinki Protocol and the Nuremburg Code
Mar 13	Ethical use of data and research in business	MaxMind ethical dilemma video (~90 mins) – Example of issues involving Data and AI  Read Best Practices in Data Collection and Preparation: Recommendations for Reviewers, Editors, and Authors
Mar 20	Conducting Ethical Research – Differences across disciplines & restrictions on data	Read APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct: Section 8: Research and Publication  Read What is considered deception in experimental economics

Mar 27	Conducting Ethical Research – Navigating temptation	Read Article on thinking about values in the workplace (24 pages) Read and prepare comments on one or two very brief cases for discussion
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### **Assessment Mix: The assessment will be subjected to changes**

The assessment will be based on the following activities:

1. Class participation (20%) This will consist of two elements.
  - a. Participation in a decision-making exercise. (10%)
  - b. Contributions to class discussions. (10%)
2. Research proposal (10%)
  - a. Students will prepare a brief research proposal outlining the academic question they are exploring or the business objective. They will also assess the ethical issues related to the experiment.
3. Ethics Review Submission (35%)
  - a. Students will fill out a formal IRB submission according to the template used by the Committee for Ethical Research here in Toulouse. It will be based on their research proposal.
4. Final examination (35%)
  - a. A final exam will be given covering the course material

Depending on the class size the research proposal and ethics review submission may be structured as group rather than individual projects.

### **Readings**

Powerpoint handouts will be made available to the class after the lectures.

Further readings may be assigned and distributed during the course.