

SV9104 Research Ethics

Course content

The course focuses on the responsibility of individuals to apply an ethical approach in their own research project.

Ethical norms and values are integral to all sciences rather than being imposed on research by external bodies. Ethical reflection characterizes scientific work, from the initial tenuous start of the research process to the final publication and dissemination to the public. This is not only out of consideration for the research subjects but also in regard to colleagues, the general public and society at large.

This course cuts across all disciplines at the Faculty of Social Science. There will be emphasis on comparison and we invite candidates to actively interact with colleagues across disciplines showing how different intellectual traditions and research methods have dealt with questions regarding ethics. Lectures, short exercises and active problem solving in groups will invite critical reflection on research ethics within disciplines and towards other disciplines.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

Candidates will:

- have knowledge about general ethical problems in research.
- have knowledge about rules and regulations in social sciences research.
- be familiar with the rules that apply to their research practice and that of related disciplines.
- be familiar with UiO's Standard for Research Integrity.

- gain insight into the interdisciplinarity of the PhD programme and how researchers may view matters from different perspectives

Skills

Candidates will be able to:

- mobilize a sense of responsibility when faced with ethical problems relevant to research.
- identify and handle ethics dilemmas relevant to their practice.

Competences

Candidates:

- have attained a level of reflection that will guide them in their research career.

Admission

The course is compulsory for all candidates on the PhD programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

PhD candidates must each semester register for classes and examinations through Studentweb.

The deadline for registering is February 1st for courses in the spring semester and September 1st for courses in the autumn semester.

This course is only available for candidates admitted to the PhD programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oslo.

Overlapping courses

- 1 credits overlap with [SV9102 – Research Ethics \(discontinued\)](#)
- 2 credits overlap with PSY9002

Teaching

Lectures, seminars and group presentations

Compulsory activities

Attendance

- 80 % attendance.
- Active participation.
- The attendance and examination must be completed in the same semester.

Curriculum

- The participants are expected to be familiar with the curriculum in advance.

Examination

Mandatory assignment due one week before the course starts

- Prepare a brief ethical assessment of your own PhD project. This could involve ethical questions, dilemmas and/or reflections relevant to your research project (500-600 words).
- You will be divided into groups of students, and in the course you will have the chance to discuss your reflections with your group. Please read through the assignments handed in by other members of your group as well before the course. In that way, you will meet better prepared for the group discussion.
- The idea behind the assignment is to have you reflect on your own PhD project from an ethical perspective.
- The assignment must be uploaded in Canvas within the deadline, approximately one week before the course starts.
- After the deadline, all the assignments will be made available on Canvas.

Failure to submit the mandatory assignment in time will result in loss of the right to participate in the course.

Oral group examination

- The group presentations will take place on the last day of the course.

- [Assessment guidelines](#)

Language of examination

The language of examination is English.

Grading scale

Grades are awarded on a pass/fail scale. Read more about [the grading system](#).

Explanations and appeals

- [Explanation of grades and appeals](#)

Resit an examination

- [Illness at exams / postponed exams](#)
- [Resitting an examination](#)

Withdrawal from an examination

It is possible to take the exam up to 3 times. If you [withdraw from the exam](#) after the deadline or during the exam, this will be counted as an examination attempt.

Special examination arrangements

Application form, deadline and requirements for [special examination arrangements](#).

Evaluation

The course is subject to continuous evaluation. At regular intervals we also ask students to participate in a more comprehensive evaluation.