January 15, 2009

Dear Ethics and Human Values Committee,

In my revision of the proposal for Ethics and Human Values Designation for Research Portfolio Seminar, HC 320, I have added more than three weeks of discussion and reading assignments on the three schools of Western tradition to provide the background for students to determine their positions on ethical issues in research. Discussion of these theories will lead to the ethical principles that are commonly applied in research ethics: respect for autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence and justice. The application of these principles had previously been included in the course design (for example, assignments on falsification, plagiarism and fabrication of visual and written information), however the framework for this application provided by an examination of the traditions was missing. Following the classes on ethical traditions and principles, much of the remaining class time will be spent on activities and assignments that allow the students to apply the principles to specific case studies and research fields; the students will develop their ethical decision making skills, particularly those related to their own independent research projects. I am very interested in participating in a one-week summer workshop in Western ethical traditions to improve my ability to assist the students in their ethical explorations.

Note: Changes to the General Education Form have been underlined and changes to the class schedule have been made in bold type.

Regards

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