When are Class Projects Considered Human Subjects Research?

Faculty and students should review our webpage entitled, “Student Class Project Guidelines” BEFORE collecting data.

If students plan to use a class project for a future thesis or dissertation, it is critical that they secure IRB approval before conducting the class project. Instructors may also wish to use class projects toward a publication and/or presentation. In this case, the project can be submitted under one IRB application where the instructor is the principal investigator and the students are listed as co-investigators.

If class projects are designed ONLY for educational purposes AND students (and/or instructors) do not plan to present, post, or publish results/data from the project – then IRB review is not required.

For more information: http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/humansubjects/class_project.html

IRB Guidelines on Mechanical Turk (MTurk)

In response to the March 2013 report on the vulnerabilities of Amazon.com’s online platform known as “Mechanical Turk,” ORS staff compiled a list of guidelines for researchers who may be interested in using this data collection tool. Please read these guidelines before submitting IRB applications and supplemental materials.

To read the March 2013 report: http://www.utexas.edu/news/2013/03/27/amazons-online-workforce-not-so-anonymous-after-all/

IRB guidelines for using MTurk are posted on our special topics page: http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/humansubjects/special_topics/index.html

Research Ethics Trivia

1. The Tudor Study involved studying what in minors?

2. The Tudor Study is often referred to as, the _________ study.

Answers: 1) The Tudor Study involved studying the cause of stuttering in minors. 2) Due to numerous ethical violations reminiscent of Nazi experiments, this study is often referred to as, “the monster study.”

“IRB Q&A Sessions” Available to ALL Researchers on Campus

This session provides researchers with the opportunity to ask questions about draft protocols, IRB applications, and ethical concerns about research with human participants. Bring study materials (hard copies preferred) and receive immediate feedback to IRB-related questions. This new class is offered on a monthly basis. This is a working session intended to provide one-on-one assistance with the IRB submission process. There will be NO formal presentation, as offered in RC 201, “IRB Intro.”

Sign up on TXClass: http://links.utexas.edu/cdbzioc

The next IRB Full Board meeting is July 22, 2013.

The deadline to submit paper copies is July 3, 2013.

*** NOTE: IRB MEETING DATES AND DEADLINES HAVE BEEN UPDATED. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE REVISED SCHEDULE. ***