CHEM 380 - Professional Ethics for Chemists  
Spring 2020

Instructor: 
Tom Apple, Bilger 245, tapple@hawaii.edu, 956-8038  
Office hours: W, R 11:30-12:30 in my office or by appointment

Prerequisite: CHEM 274 (or concurrent) or instructor’s consent. This class satisfies both the  
Contemporary Ethical Issues Focus (ETH) and Oral Communications (OC) requirements.

This class introduces contemporary ethical issues in scientific research and practice, with  
particular focus on chemistry. This class will be discussion based with emphasis on student  
presentations. We will discuss case studies and additional examples from the media. Topics  
covered include policy, plagiarism, authorship, fraud, accountability, conflicts of interest,  
intellectual property, and interpersonal conflicts. Student teams will present readings each week  
and lead discussions. The final three weeks of the class will be devoted to student presentations  
of their own chosen topics dealing with scientific research ethics.

Student learning objectives
1. Recognize the relevance of ethics to scientific practice.
2. Identify potential ethical issues in their careers.
3. Discern and avoid potential conflicts of interest.
4. Learn about institutional mechanisms for avoiding and dealing with ethical problems.
5. Improve oral communication skills.

Readings and resources
   http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192
3. retractionwatch.com
4. blog.chembark.com

Grading  
Grades will be determined according to the  
following scheme: Class participation: 33%  
Oral presentations: 67%

Absences  
Unexcused absences will result in the assignment of ZERO points for participation for that day.  
Excused absences require official documentation. You will not earn a passing grade if you miss  
more than one class without an excuse.

Academic Misconduct

The grade in a course is intended to be a reflection of what you have learned in the  
course. Any instances of plagiarism (presenting someone else's work as your own)  
will be dealt with through university procedures for academic dishonesty. Academic  
misconduct in this ethics class will give the student a failing grade.