

Responsible Conduct of Research

Course Syllabus – Fall 2025

Course: CHEM 6890

Instructor: Samer Gozem

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Office Hours: Please email me (sgozem@gsu.edu) if you would like to set up a time to meet in person or virtually.

Instruction Mode: Face-to-face lectures. TR, 5:30-7:30 pm in PSC 255.

Course Prerequisites: None

Course objectives: The objective of this course is to discuss the responsible conduct of research (RCR) in Chemistry. The emphasis will be on the ethics of conducting research, data analysis, and conformance to federal and community guidelines in Chemistry related research. Successful completion of the course will satisfy federal guidelines for RCR training and documentation.

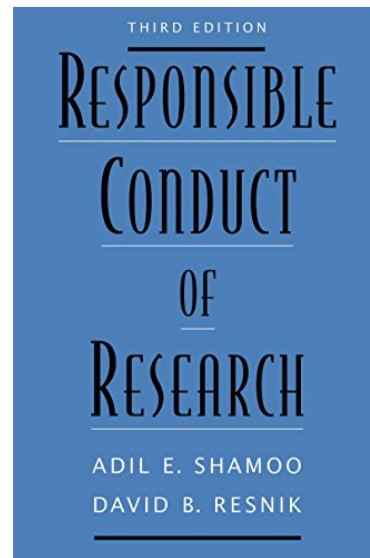
Textbook: *Responsible Conduct of Research* by Adil Shamoo and David Resnik, 3rd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2017, ISBN 978-0199376025. A full e-text of the textbook is available from the GSU library for free.

Supplemental reading:

On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research.

Third Edition, 2009. Available as a pdf free of charge here after sign up:

<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/12192/on-being-a-scientist-a-guide-to-responsible-conduct-in>



Research Ethics: A Reader by Demi Elliott and Judy E. Stern, 1st edition, Institute for the Study of Applied and Professional Ethics at Dartmouth College, 1997. ISBN 978-0874517972.

Attendance: You may miss up to one class of CHEM 6890. If you miss more than one class, then your participation grade will be affected. Excused absence and a make-up assignment may be discussed with the instructor.

Participation (30% of your grade): Participation is necessary for this course. You will be expected to participate both in group discussions as well as presenting summaries of those discussions to the rest of the class. It is also important to write notes during class discussions; your written reports will be rooted in these discussions.

Written reports (45% of your grade): You will need to write three reports based on the specific discussions and case studies discussed in class. Each report should be between 2000 and 3000 words in length. The detailed requirements for each report will be announced in class and on iCollege in advance. Reports should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents or PDF files to iCollege by the following dates:

Tuesday, September 9th, 2025

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025

Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

Reports are graded on the following categories:

- Clarity
- Strength/consistency of discussions.
- Basing part of the discussion on the in-class conversations.
- Inclusion of concepts from the book (or literature) to help form the arguments.
- Integrating these class discussions / literature perspectives into your own perspective and discussion.
- Proper referencing of citations.

CITI training (25% of your grade): One of the requirements for this course is completion of the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). You are required to complete this training by **Tuesday, October 7th, 2025**. Instructions are available on iCollege. You CITI training score will be converted to a score out of 25.

Last day to withdraw is **Friday, September 19th, 2025**,

The University requires faculty, on a date set by the Provost after the mid-point of the course,

1. to give a WF to all those students who are on their rolls but no longer taking the class, and
2. to report the last day the student attended or turned in an assignment.

Grading:

Your final course grade is determined as follows:

	%
Participation	30
Written Reports	45
CITI training	25

The following grading system will be used for everyone:

Grade	%
A	90-100
A-	87-90
B+	84-87
B	80-84
B-	77-80
C+	74-77
C	70-74
C-	65-70
D	50-65
F	< 50

The exceptional grade of A+ may be awarded in rare cases where a student:

- 1) Obtains 100% as their class grade, and
- 2) Participates regularly and constructively to class discussions, and
- 3) Submits exceptionally well-written and well-thought-out reports that more than just satisfy the minimum categories listed above.

Use of AI Tools: You are free to use generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to help you in drafting your reports. You must attribute those tools if you use them, i.e., please indicate at the end of the draft if you used an AI tool and cite it accordingly. Please keep in mind that reports must comment on what was discussed in the classroom, which is information that ChatGPT will not have access to. However, ChatGPT can still be a useful tool to develop ideas or help polish your reports.

Accommodations: Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Access and Accommodation Center. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the [Access and Accommodation Center](#) of a signed **Accommodation Plan** and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act: In keeping with USG and university policy, this course website will make every effort to maintain the privacy and accuracy of your personal information. Specifically, unless otherwise noted, it will not actively share personal information gathered from the site with anyone except university employees whose responsibilities require access to said records. However, some information collected from the site may be subject to the Georgia Open Records Act. This means that while

we do not actively share information, in some cases we may be compelled by law to release information gathered from the site. Also, the site will be managed in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prohibits the release of education records without student permission. For more details on FERPA, [go here](#).

Course Evaluation: Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Tentative schedule: The table below is a general plan for the course; please note that deviations may be necessary.

Date	Discussion topic	Assignment due
08/26	Introduction and ethical decision making	Read chapter 1 (recommended)
08/28	Misconduct in research	Read chapters 1 & 2
09/02	Data acquisition and management	Read chapter 3
09/04	Mentoring	Read chapter 4
09/09	Collaborations	Report 1 due Read chapter 5
09/11	Authorship	Read chapter 6
09/16	Peer reviewing	Read chapter 7
09/18	Conflicts of interest	Read chapter 8
09/23	Other topics in the Responsible Conduct of Research	Report 2 due Read chapter 9
09/25	Guest lectures, Drs. Xuefei Li and Zhicheng Jin	
09/30	Guest lecture, Dr. Giovanni Gadda	
10/01	Gues Lectures, Ozlem Tuncel and Imani Beverly	
10/07	Endnote Tutorial (optional attendance)	Report 3 due CITI training due Install Endnote (optional)