

# Week 4 lecture notes - PSYC 3435

Feb 6-10, 2017

## **Ethics in research**

There are two basic categories of ethical concerns

- consider the rights of our participants in our research
- behave ethically as scientists and practitioners

First, we'll talk about the historical precedents for modern ethical guidelines:

### **Nuremberg Code (1949)- developed in response to Nazi atrocities during World War II**

- participation is voluntary
- participants must be given information about risks
- research should contribute to knowledge and conducted by qualified researchers
- researchers must avoid unnecessary harm and ensure that benefits outweigh risks
- participants must have right to quit at any time

### **APA Code of Ethics (1953)**

- basically same as Nuremberg code, with two additions
  - researchers must reduce harm due to deception

- researchers must ensure confidentiality
- note: original APA code left sole oversight to researchers. This led to two infamous experiments that stretched the bounds of the APA code:
  - \* Milgram obedience study (1963)
  - \* Zimbardo prison experiment (1973)

## **Belmont report (1979) - list of ethical guidelines in response to Tuskegee syphilis study**

- Three principles (and resulting modern research behavior)
  1. Respect for persons (consent form)
  2. Beneficence (risk-benefit analysis and confidentiality)
  3. Justice (fair selection)

## **Monitoring of ethics - role of IRB**

- IRB -> Institutional Review Board: a committee of individuals who oversee all research with human subjects
- Researcher submits a protocol to IRB to ensure the following criteria are met:
  - minimize risk
  - benefits > risk
  - equal opportunity sampling
  - informed consent w/ documentation
  - data monitoring
  - privacy and confidentiality