COURSE-BASED RESEARCH AND ETHICS OVERSIGHT

Course-based research: The primary goal of a **minimal-risk[1]** research activity in a course is to **provide students with skill development** relevant to their area of study[2]. That is to say, the purpose is for students to **learn research methods through applied means**. The same level of rigour is expected in course-based work as in non-course-based work (Reference: TCPS 2 (2014) Article 6.12). **All course-based research should be conducted primarily for educational purposes.** Many of these categories are context dependent, please consult the REB if you have any questions about how your course activities relate to this matrix.

	Requires OCAD University Research Ethics Board (REB) Review[3]	No review required[4]
Summary	• An application is submitted for any course involving research with human participants. If a course is comprised of more than one class, each instructor should be included in the project team and is responsible for delivering the course according to the application and providing ethical oversight for their students. A course lead should be identified to be responsible for the submission of requirements on ROMEO. • Research with human participants that involves more than minimal risk, vulnerable participants, etc. as detailed below will require a full board review. [5]	Research methods are being practiced within the classroom. No REB application is required.
Human participant recruitment	Recruitment should not exceed an amount beyond what is needed to achieve the educational objective.	No human participants recruited.
Participant type	Minors/vulnerable[6] individuals should not be recruited. If your course-based research projects require participants who are minors/vulnerable individuals, please contact the REB.	Subject matter experts.[7] No recruited participants.
Risks	Risks[8] should not be greater than minimal.	
Use of deception	Research methodology should not involve deception.[9]	
Context of research	Research activities take place outside of supervised class activities. Observation activities in public areas require REB review unless specific conditions[10] are met.	• All research activities are conducted within supervised class activities. • Observation activities that do not require REB review must meet specific conditions. [11]
Data use	Participants should have no reasonable expectation of privacy attached to research data being collected and should be informed that the data may be discussed in the classroom.[12]	No sensitive or identifiable data collected.[13]
Partnerships	• The research may involve other protocols or ethics boards as a result of partnership with other institutions. • Research that is external or commercial may also be included.	No external partnerships.
Dissemination of research	• Research may be presented in venues associated with OCAD University and/or the research partner.[14] • Research may be presented in contexts outside of OCAD University.[15]	Research is presented only in class.

[1] [A] "minimal risk" situation is defined as one in which the probability and magnitude of possible harms implied by participation in the research is no greater than those encountered by the participant in those aspects of his or her everyday life that relate to the research" (TPCS 2 Chapter 2.8, section B)

[2] Including, but not limited to: user-testing, iteration, interview, practice-based/led research, content analysis, action research, usability studies, survey administration and analysis, narrative research, participatory design, focus groups.

[3] Delegated REB review is a more typical occurrence where two REB members are assigned to review the application. Oversight for the ethical conduct of activities by students is delegated to the instructor. This happens when the research involves no greater than minimal risk and no vulnerable populations are involved. If your application requires a delegated review, feedback will be provided in less than 20 working days.

    For example:

    1) A 4th year undergrad course involves research that informs capstone projects BUT research activities do not involve greater than minimal risk and do not involve vulnerable populations.

    2) An external partner works with the course instructor so that students can examine workplace productivity and formulate assessment of opportunities/gaps in current systems.

[4] No application is required for course-based research activities that do not involve human or animal participants. If you are uncertain about whether or not your plans require review, please contact the REB at cpineda@ocadu.ca or nsnow@faculty.ocadu.ca.

    For example:

    1) Teaching students how to conduct secondary research using information available on online repositories.

    2) Students examining the prevalence of smoking on the Instagram profiles of public personas.

[5] Full board review is a rare occurrence where the expertise of the full REB is called upon to review an application. This happens when the research involves greater than minimal risk or involves vulnerable populations. If your application requires a full board review, feedback will be provided in approximately 20 working days.

    For example:

    1) An instructor would like their students to ride along with first responders to examine their workflow.

    2) An instructor would like students to examine aspects of sexual assault by interviewing survivors at a youth shelter.

[6] Ref. TCPS 2 Chapter 4 and Chapter 9

[7] Ref. TCPS 2 Chapter 2, Article 2.1, Application, par. 7

[8] See end note 1.

[9] Ref. TCPS 2 Chapter 3, Article 3.7, Application, par. 4

[10] Ref. TCPS 2 Chapter 2, Article 2.3

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ref. TCPS 2 Chapter 5

[13] Ibid.

[14] Examples of venues associated with OCAD University and/or the research partner.

    1) A student provides a section on data collection in their process book for their GradEx exhibit. This includes anatomized data, an appendix of survey questions provided to participants, and their user-testing protocol.

    2) Students present their user-testing protocol, data collection methods, anonymized data along with a list of recommendations based off their analysis at the offices of a research partner.

    3) Students publish their final papers on the OCAD University Open Research Repository.

[15] Examples of contexts outside of OCAD University: galleries, conferences, public venues.