

CSC 450, Senior Research

As defined by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), **Human Subjects Research** involves any investigation where "an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or (2) identifiable private information." Because of past abuses involving research of human subjects (e.g., the Tuskegee syphilis experiment), procedures are in place to ensure the safety and protection of research participants. Generally, human subjects research requires the approval of an Institutional Review Board (IRB). Information about the IRB at Eastern is available here:

<https://www.easternct.edu/academic-affairs/faculty-resources/protocol-application-for-research-on-human-subjects.html>

Class projects are generally exempt from IRB review as long as they do not pose a risk (physical, emotional, financial, or legal harm) greater than what would normally be encountered in everyday life. In addition, the subject's privacy must be protected, which is guaranteed as long as no identifying information about the subjects is collected.

What should I do if I want to conduct Human Subjects Research for this course?

1. Discuss your project with me as soon as possible, so we can address any ethical issues that may exist.
2. Complete an online training for **Social & Behavioral Research Investigators**, by following the appropriate steps here: <https://www.easternct.edu/academic-affairs/documents/human-subjects-research-citi-trainings---student-researchers.pdf>), forward me your completion certificate once complete. Note that the training must be completed before the Rough Draft is due (specific due dates will be stated at a later time).
3. More information including how to get a study participant's consent will be provided later in the semester.