KSU STUDENT CLASSROOM PROJECTS

IRB approval is not required if the classroom activity meets ALL of the following requirements:

1. All people from whom information is obtained are enrolled in the same course section (students asking only other students who are currently enrolled in the same course section).

2. The information obtained is not disseminated (shared with anyone) who is not in the same classroom in any way. This means that there can be no outside presentations by students or subsequent combining of information by instructors to share with a subsequent class.

3. The questions do not involve sensitive information. Sensitive data includes but is not limited to requests for personal information that can be linked to the participant, questions that could cause emotional or psychological distress, information about substance use (drugs, alcohol, etc.), engaging in illegal activities, requests for medical information, any item(s) that may damage the self-image of participants. Please consult with the IRB if you are unsure about the sensitivity of the data your students are proposing to collect.

4. The syllabus and instructors’ commentary in the classroom do NOT refer to the activity as “doing research.” Students should not be told that they are “doing research.” If it is called research, then it needs to go through the IRB. Activities may be referred to as “exercises in research methodology” or perhaps “practice in survey construction;” if described in this manner, they would not have to be approved by the IRB.

5. If the instructor chooses to follow these steps, they are also accepting responsibility for all of their student researchers in lieu of IRB oversight.

Note that these requirements apply to ALL COURSES. All faculty (including adjuncts) should be aware of these requirements.