Introduction
Several ethical considerations within psychological research in general
Different research methods have different ethical considerations: such as overt and covert observations
2 important ethical considerations in SCLOA are undue stress or harm and deception.

Undue stress or harm
• Any stress the participant that wouldn't be encountered in everyday life – an unnecessary amount
• Simple discomfort is not undue stress, it must be more severe
• The person must be able to leave the experiment in the same condition in which they arrived

Zimbardo
Aim: Psychological effects of becoming a prisoner/guard in a simulated prison. Wanted to see the role of situational versus dispositional factors
Procedure: Overt naturalistic participant study with male Stanford students given interviews to eliminate psychological problems and disabilities. Participants were assigned randomly to either position and the study was meant to last 2 weeks but was cut short after 6 days.
Findings: Behavior got out of control with immense humiliation and poor treatment of the prisoners of attacking and dehumanization. The guards weren’t given training but became violent showing that the situation of a prison made them act that way. This supports the claim and learning objective
Ethics: A prisoner wanted to leave early due to discomfort but Zimbardo didn’t allow it. This automatically violates the consideration of withdrawal. Participants were humiliated in public. There was undue stress and harm with abusive behavior, dehumanization and unpleasant tasks. This wasn’t necessary and didn’t add to the results of the experiment. Question of whether the findings are so valuable for the ethical violations that took place – whether it was “worth it”

Asch:
Aim: See whether people would conform in a clear, unambiguous situation
Procedure: A group was given a visual line test (the Asch Paradigm) with 1 participant among several confederates. They were asked to identify the line that was the length of x, which was easy to do. They had the confederates state the wrong answer to see whether people would give into the group
Findings: We are influenced by others even if we think we are acting alone we submit to group pressure. The majority of people conformed at least once. After debriefing participants never recognized that others affected their behavior. The study has been replicated numerous times with the same results
Ethics: A different type of undue stress, the unanimity of the group could have manifested self-doubt and disbelief in ones senses

Festinger
Aim: Observe the degree of true belief in members of a cult when they found out that the world would not end
Procedure: Covert naturalistic participant observation. Researchers became members of the cult and observed them for a number of weeks, taking notes secretly without participants knowing.
Findings: After realization that the world didn’t end, the participants justified their behavior based on the theory of cognitive dissonance (in a state of anxiety and irradiating it by going into denial and justifying the behavior with an excuse). They accepted the belief that their prayers saved the world to maintain self-esteem
Ethics: Finding out that they were observed much later through book publishing (deception element) could have created massive undue stress and harm. It creates an unwillingness to trust someone and a feeling of privacy being violated. Harm with no confidentiality
Benefit of getting as accurate results as possible as they do not know they are watched but there is a corresponding ethical violation with it

Deception
• Used to control for demand characteristics. If participants are not sure what the study is about, they are less likely to do what they are supposed to do and thus expectancy effects are avoided.
• Covert observations can be carried out where they do not know they are being watched
• A lot of the research in SCLOA looks at research in natural environments to see reactions
• Done to access information participants would not be disclosed if they knew their behavior was being studied.