

Policies on Plagiarism and Cheating

This document is to be regarded as your only warning in this course with regards to plagiarism, cheating, and other academic improprieties. A Korean-language translation will be provided, for those students who find this text too difficult.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as "The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft" (Oxford English Dictionary, online edition).

For our purposes, plagiarism means copying *any* text -- one line, or one hundred, or one thousand -- from a book, journal, or website without attributing the text to the source. In other words, it means presenting someone else's words as if they are your own writing.

If you are presenting someone else's writing, you can very simply present it in the following way:

Michael Winston writes that "cats don't like mice half as much as they like milk" (*Cats*, 57).

The above sentence clearly shows that someone named Michael Tilson wrote the words between the quotation marks, and the information in the bracketed section in the back shows the source of the quotation.

If you wrote:

Cats don't like mice half as much as they like milk.

... without showing who originally wrote these words, or where you got them, you will have committed plagiarism.

Of course, common knowledge (such as " $E=mc^2$ ") and old sayings (such as "Birds of a feather flock together") do not need to be cited. However, text taken from another source *always* needs to be cited, and failure to do so is plagiarism.

The simple guide is this: if you are using the copy-and-paste function on your computer, or are writing with a source text open in front of you, you will need to cite a source. If you are using someone else's words (or even in some case someone else's ideas, in a paraphrase, ie. rewritten in your own words), you will need to cite a source.

For more information on this, please consult the following website for a clear, simple set of instructions on how to quote, cite, and write a works cited page for essays. If you have any questions, or need to cite a format that is not listed on the website below, feel free to ask your instructor.

<http://www.liu.edu/CWIS/CWP/library/workshop/citmla.htm>

Other systems of citation, such as the use of footnotes, are also acceptable, provided you are consistent and careful to cite all quotations in your work.

Cheating

It should not require explanation, but cheating involves any method of trying to get around demonstrating the skills or knowledge you are supposed to have acquired. These include:

- plagiarism in written homework
- plagiarism by memory on exams
- downloading or buying essays online

- use of any equipment not permitted by the professor (which may include electronic dictionaries, phone dictionaries, and more) during exams
- copying of others' work
- attempts to bribe the professor (or peer evaluators) with gifts
- many more possibilities

Consequences

Cheating and plagiarism are serious issues for the following reasons:

- they show disrespect for classmates, who are doing their homework diligently
- they show insulting disrespect for the professor, who not only prepares classes but also has to read all submitted work
- they show disrespect for education and learning in general, and when they are widespread they have a negative effect on the academic environment
- they waste students' time and money (or that of their parents), since a student who cheats or plagiarizes learns much less than a student who actually does his or her homework
- they waste university resources, since internet access and the library are provided for you to study, not to steal, and professors' time is bought by the university in order to teach, not to act as a disciplinarian for high-school antics

Therefore, all forms of cheating are forbidden in classes, and the consequences for cheating will be very harsh, but simple and straightforward:

Anyone caught cheating will receive an F in the course.

Anyone caught plagiarizing will receive an F in the course.

These consequences are not open to negotiation. It will not matter if you beg. It will not matter if you promise to learn your lesson. It will not matter what you do, once you have been caught cheating or plagiarizing: you will receive an F in the course.

If you have any doubts or questions, consult the citation link above. If your questions remain, then feel free to approach your instructors with your questions. To discuss these issues before you take your exam or hand in your essay is a very good idea, because discussion left until afterward will unfortunately be too late.

When considering carefully whether you think it is worth it to take the risk, remember that your teachers are experienced and in general very good at detecting cases of plagiarism or cheating. Your chances of getting caught are very high, and the consequences, for this course at least, are very harsh.

For a Korean translation of this document, please see the following:

http://gordsclass.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/onplagiarism_koreanversion.pdf

(Note that the Korean translation was not written by me. I'm told it's harsher-sounding than the original English document.)

If you have any questions, concerns, or doubts about whether you're plagiarizing or how to avoid doing it, your best course of action is to talk to your teacher!