Academic Integrity and proper citation
Plagiarism

Types of plagiarism:

- Failure to cite borrowed ideas.
- Failure to cite quotations of others’ work.
- Paraphrasing too closely, especially long passages or multiple paragraphs.
- Self plagiarism.
Borrowed ideas

- Did you get an idea directly from a source?
- Cite it.
- Example:
  - Author claims that the French Revolution was caused by the Monarchy’s massive debts.
  - The author did the research, give the author credit.
• Did you get an idea indirectly from a source?

• Example:

  ◦ The French Monarchy lost power due to its massive debts (Author’s Idea). This power vacuum allowed the middle class to rise in political prominence. (Your idea).

  ◦ Cite the Author’s idea. Don’t cite your idea.

  ◦ Good practice: establish your facts with solid sources, cite them, then provide your interpretation of what those facts indicate.
Citing quotations

- Are you using a direct quote from someone else?

- Put it between quotation marks and cite it.

- Easy, isn’t it?
Three or more words

What constitutes a quote:

Technically: taking three or more words in a row from your source material.

- So, taking the phrase “uncertain political climate” from your source without putting it quotes is plagiarism.

- But in practice, you’ll never be called on “In other words” or “The next year” or any other extremely common string of words.
One-word plagiarism

- Exception to the three-word rule: Presenting someone else’s new term or phrase as your own invention.
  - “This new form of civil disobedience, which I’ll call ecoterrorism, took many forms…”
  - Better: “This new form of civil disobedience, which Jane Robbins dubbed ‘ecoterrorism’, took many forms.”
Good Quoting

- Good practice: quote only the quotable.
  - American Revolutionary Patrick Henry said “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!”

  - Is this quote interesting?
    - Yes.

  - Would paraphrasing the information improve it?
    - No.
Bad quoting

- Don’t quote the less-than-quotable.
  - Robert Reich, Secretary of Labor during the Clinton administration, said that “the Employment rate increased 1.3% in the second quarter of 1994.”

  - Is this precise combination of words interesting?

  - The information might be interesting, or relevant to your point, but there’s little reason for the exact quote.
Online Resources for Plagiarists

- Any relevant article on the internet.
- Term-paper sites offer a variety of papers on different subjects.
  - Some require payment
  - Some make money on advertising revenue, or by collecting email addresses to resell elsewhere
Online resources for Instructors

- Easiest method: Google search engine + one unusual phrase
  - Students who plagiarize don’t usually dig deep for their source material.

- Anti-plagiarism websites and software: (www.turnitin.com and others)
  - Collect frequently-used online term papers and compares them to submitted student papers
  - Collects submitted student-written papers for a given class and compares them to other students’ papers.
…wait, whose intellectual property?

- Any communications or material of any kind that you e-mail, post, or transmit through the Site…will be treated as non-confidential and non-proprietary. You grant iParadigms a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, world-wide, irrevocable license to reproduce, transmit, display, disclose, and otherwise use your Communications on the Site or elsewhere for our business purposes. We are free to use any ideas, concepts, techniques, know-how in your Communications for any purpose, including, but not limited to, the development and use of products and services based on the Communications.

- From turnitin.com’s Usage Policy: http://www.turnitin.com/static/usage.html
“Medicaments”

- “The use of medicaments in professional sports…”

- Medicaments: a term for medicines or pharmaceuticals. Used widely in the early and mid 1800’s, but outdated by 1880-1890.
  - Occasionally still in use among students of English outside the US, particularly in schools in India and the Middle East.

- My personal record: identified plagiarism four words into a paper.
Figures, Illustrations, Photos.

- Did you draw the illustration, plot the graph, or take the photo?
  - No?
  - Cite it.
  - If you don’t cite it, the reader will assume you created it yourself.
  - In classes, it will save the instructor or TA time if you label your own illustrations
  - (Note: if you make the graph but found the data elsewhere, cite the source of the data)
Simultaneous discovery:

- If you generate your own idea about a subject, and the idea is nearly identical to a source you haven’t read yet, you aren’t obligated to cite it.

- This can be hard to distinguish from genuine plagiarism.
Unintentional Plagiarism

- Comes from:
  - Paraphrasing sources, then editing and accidentally changing it to something too close to the original.
  - Forgetting to note the source of an idea or quote you’ve found, and then forgetting it is not your own.

- It can be difficult or impossible to prove this mistake was accidental.
Self plagiarism

- How can you plagiarize yourself?
- By turning in the same paper to two different classes.
- Note: not all instructors consider this plagiarism.
  - (For instance, I don’t)
  - Always ask first.
  - Also: your TAs and professors can have different ideas about what constitutes plagiarism. The professor makes the final decision.
General Knowledge

• You do not need to cite general knowledge.

• What’s general knowledge?
  ◦ Force equals mass times acceleration.
  ◦ *Romeo and Juliet* was written by William Shakespeare.
  ◦ The United States of America declared its independence in 1776.
• Is this general information?
  ◦ Human and chimpanzee DNA are 99% identical.
  ◦ A wide variety of mental illnesses are mislabeled as Schizophrenia.
  ◦ Roosevelt knew about the impending Pearl Harbor attack days before December 7th, 1941.

• Note: as you advance in a field, what’s considered “General Knowledge” can change.
  ◦ When in any doubt, though, cite.
  ◦ You’ll never get in trouble for over-citing.
Outside Academia

- Plagiarism is a purely academic crime.
  ◦ It isn’t, in fact, a crime – either criminal or civil.
  ◦ But it’s a violation of academic ethics and you can be punished for it.
  ◦ By attending a school, you agree to the school policies whether or not you’ve read them.

- Outside academia, it’s still a good idea to give credit where it’s due.
  ◦ Copyright infringement, technically different from plagiarism, can be grounds for a lawsuit.
Proper Citations

- Step one: pick a style guide.
- Any style guide is better than no style guide.
  - Saves time.
  - Prevents stylistic inconsistencies.
  - In class instructor will notice.
  - Want to get published? Check the publisher’s required style guide.

- Some instructors may insist on a specific style guide. (Not such a frequent issue at the undergraduate level.)
Style Guides...

- Dictate whether:
  - Are books and movies underlined? In Italics?
  - Do I center justify text? Left justify only?
  - Dates?
    - July 19, 1969?
    - Jul. 19, 1969
    - 19 Jul 1969?
    - 7/19/69?...
  - Numbers?
    - 5
    - Five?
    - 39
    - Thirty-nine?
  - Most importantly: how do I cite my sources?
### Style Guides

- **General interest:** Chicago Manual of Style
- **Arts and Humanities:** MLA (Modern Language Association)
- **Chemistry:** ACS (American Chemical Society)
- **Engineering:** IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)
  
  *Note: IEEE uses Chicago Manual of Style for all matters not explicitly outlined in IEEE style guide.*
- **Social Sciences:** APA (American Psychological Association)
  
  - Note: Sociology, while also a Social Science, has its own style: ASA (American Sociological Association)
- Many, many others.
Simple, One-Author Book Citation

- Chicago: Last name, first name. *Italicized Title*. (Place of publication: publisher, date of publication).


- APA: Last name, author’s initial (date of publication). *Italicized Title*. Place of publications, publisher.

Citing Electronic Sources

- Check your style guide for specifics.
- Typically includes:
  - Name of the author (if given)
  - Site title
  - Names of any editors
  - Date of publication or last update
  - Date of access
  - The URL
Examples:

  [http://pweb.netcom.com/~supeters/luther.htm](http://pweb.netcom.com/~supeters/luther.htm)

Other forms of citation:

- Citing interviews
- Citing multiple or unknown authors
- Citing a musical composition
- Citing a pamphlet
- Citing a personal letter

- If it’s a type of information source, you’re probably not the first one to discover it.
  - It’s faster to look it up than to invent your own mode of citation.
Any questions?