What Constitutes Plagiarism?

No honest scholar wants to be guilty of the intellectual crime of plagiarism, even unintentionally. Therefore, we provide you with these guidelines so that you don't accidentally fall into the plagiarism trap.

Plagiarism is the taking of someone else's words, work, or ideas, and passing them off as a product of your own efforts. Plagiarism may occur when a person fails to place quotation marks around someone else's exact words, directly rephrasing or paraphrasing someone else's words while still following the general form of the original, and/or failing to issue the proper citation to one's source material.

In student work, plagiarism is often due to...

- turning in someone else's paper as one's own
- using another person's data or ideas without acknowledgment
- failing to cite a written source (printed or internet) of information that you used to collect data or ideas
- copying an author's exact words and putting them in the work without quotation marks or proper attribution
- rephrasing an author's words and failing to cite the source
- copying, rephrasing, or quoting an author's exact words and citing a source other than where the material was obtained. (For example, using a secondary source that cites the original material, but citing only the primary material. This misrepresents the nature of the scholarship involved in creating the paper. If you have not read an original publication, do not cite it in your references as if you have!)
- using wording that is very similar to that of the original source, but passing it off as one's own.

You can find an exhaustive list of what constitutes plagiarism at this mandatory web site:

https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism

Your instructor will be using software that is very good at detecting plagiarism, including similar passages in two different students’ work, or similar passages in a student’s work and a published source. Pay heed to the guidelines here and on the above web site. Make sure your papers and academic works are truly YOUR intellectual property.

Agreement
I have read and understand these guidelines on plagiarism and agree not to engage in plagiarism of any kind.

I understand that if my instructor has just cause to suspect plagiarism on my part, my case will be turned over to the University Honor Council. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty by the Honor Council will receive punitive measures, with the minimum penalty being a zero for the plagiarized assignment, and possibly additional measures (e.g., failing grade in the course), depending on the severity of the offense.

Printed name: ____________________________________________
Signature: _______________________________________________ Date: __________________________
Course: _______________ Section: __________________________