

SUNY OSWEGO HISTORY DEPARTMENT POLICY ON INTELLECTUAL DISHONESTY

Intellectual honesty on the part of all students is basic to individual growth and development through college course work. When academic dishonesty occurs, the teaching/learning climate is seriously undermined and student growth and development are impeded. For these reasons, any form of intellectual dishonesty is a serious concern and is therefore prohibited.

Also basic to the teaching/learning process in college course work is the authority of the course instructor to assign a grade to indicate the quality of student achievement.

Definitions

A. Intellectual Dishonesty

In an academic community, one critical outcome of intellectual dishonesty is that the instructor is prevented from knowing the truth with respect to the student level of mastery of course content. Further facilitation of learning and accurate evaluation of student achievement is thereby jeopardized. Intellectual dishonesty can take many forms. Examples of intellectual dishonesty include making up or falsifying data, etc. It may also take the form of intellectual carelessness, which, while not intentionally deceptive, has the same outcome and may be treated as academic dishonesty.

B. Cheating

Intellectual dishonesty may take the form of cheating when one presents as one's own work the work of another. Some examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. copying an examination, assignment or other work to be evaluated;
2. inappropriate collaboration on work to be evaluated;
3. the use of "cheat sheets", etc.;
4. buying/selling of examinations, term papers, etc.;
5. downloading or copying information from the Internet
6. the use of "ringers"; having another student take an exam; having another student write a term paper or assignment for which the student will receive credit; and,
7. submitting work for which credit has already been received in another course without express consent of the instructor.

C. Plagiarism

One particular form of intellectual dishonesty is plagiarism (i.e., the representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own). While it is expected that a student who is engaged in writing will utilize information from sources other than personal experience, appropriate acknowledgment of such sources is required. Plagiarism includes:

1. utilizing a direct quotation without citing the source;
2. paraphrasing the ideas, interpretation, expressions of another without giving credit; and
3. representing the thought of others as their own by failing to acknowledge or document sources.

Sources of information should be credited or footnoted by following either the Chicago Manual of Style or Modern Language Association Style Sheet, as preferred by your instructor.

Student Responsibilities

Each student has a responsibility to assist in protecting the integrity of the degrees which this institution grants by (1) not participating, either directly or indirectly, in cheating or plagiarism, (2) actively discouraging cheating or plagiarism by others, and (3) reporting to the course instructor in a timely manner any known incident of cheating/plagiarism.

Faculty Responsibilities

Each faculty member has a responsibility to assist in protecting the integrity of the degrees which this institution grants by (1) informing students of the cheating/plagiarism policy and of any specific interpretation of that policy particular to a given course, (2) actively discouraging cheating or plagiarism, and (3) implementing recommended procedures for dealing with cheating or plagiarism in instances where substantial evidence of cheating exists.

Procedures for Dealing with Cheating or Plagiarism

A. Students suspected of cheating/plagiarism shall be so informed and are entitled to an opportunity to reveal their understanding of cheating/plagiarism in a private discussion with the course instructor prior to the assessment of any penalty. The instructor or the student may choose to have a witness present for the discussion without impairing the privacy of the discussion.

B. Instructors who determine that a student has engaged in an act of plagiarism may impose an academic penalty, including that of a failing grade for the course, on that student. In cases of cheating, the instructor may impose an academic penalty as directed above, or may choose an alternative procedure and pursue disciplinary action under the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct (particularly Sections 42A and 43A of the Code). Before taking action under this section, instructors shall consult with their department chairs and appropriate division associate dean to discuss an appropriate penalty before informing the student of his/her decision.

In addition to assigning a failing grade, a letter notifying the student of the reason he/she failed the course will be sent to the student, the student's advisor, and the dean of the student's college or school.

C. A student who thinks the penalty assigned by the instructor is inappropriate may appeal the penalty:

1. first, to the instructor involved;
2. then, to the chair of the History Department
3. and finally, to either the appropriate Division Dean or the Mediation Panel.

D. An instructor may not impose an academic penalty and pursue disciplinary action against a student for the same act of academic dishonesty. However, when a student is involved in repeated breaches of academic integrity, disciplinary action may be initiated against that student by the appropriate associate dean.

Faculty Grading Rights and Responsibilities

The individual faculty member has the right and the responsibility to assign student grades, including academic penalties. The academic appeal process and the Mediation Panel are both mediation and not judgmental procedures. However, if disciplinary action is initiated through the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs, it is a judgmental procedure. Thus, final authority for the determination of any penalty to be invoked for cheating through the disciplinary process rests with the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs.