

Academic Integrity Policy
Department of Political Science
Carroll College

Why is academic integrity so important to Carroll College?

The principal benefit of attending college is to learn to think critically and independently about the world. Traditionally, colleges have provided a liberal education so that students may be “liberated” from the opinions of others—in other words, the classes you take train you to think for yourself. The most important purpose of a Carroll College education, therefore, is undermined by improper use of others’ ideas and work. It is also true that the broader academic community relies on the creation and exchange of original work. When you enrolled at Carroll College, you entered this world; consequently, you are obligated by its rules. While you are not (always) expected to make original contributions to the scholarly community, you are always required to acknowledge fully the influence of others’ ideas on your own work.

What is the Carroll College policy concerning Academic Integrity?

You may locate Carroll’s Academic Integrity Policy, which appears on page 50ff. of the student handbook, also available at: http://www.carroll.edu/forms/students/STU_Carroll_Student_Handbook.pdf. Plagiarism is defined thusly on page 50:

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (Carroll College Handbook).

For the purposes of courses in the Department of Political Science, the following acts also constitute violations of the College’s academic integrity policy:

- Submitting the same work, or parts of the same work, on more than one occasion for academic credit without full citation and prior permission from the instructor
- Providing students outside the class with test materials or accepting those materials from other students: tests and quizzes are property of the instructor
- Use of unauthorized aids to complete in-class assignments (e.g., cheating with cell phones, calculators, or crib sheets)
- Copying information from a student during in-class assignments or knowingly allowing your work to be copied

- Giving unauthorized assistance to a fellow student by allowing him to view your own work before you submit it for academic credit, or receiving such information (e.g., giving a term paper to a friend in order for him to “get ideas”)
- Giving false reasons for missing exams or assignments; securing extensions under false pretenses;
- Using incorrect or imaginary citations (e.g., claiming falsely that a book or a website supports an argument)

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated in this course. The maximum penalty is a grade of zero in the course and a referral to the Academic Dean of the College for further discipline, including dismissal from the College or revocation of the student’s degree.

What constitutes plagiarism?

What constitutes plagiarism can be difficult understand. There are two common ways in which a student knowingly or unknowingly may commit plagiarism.¹

1. Not citing a source
2. Paraphrasing too closely

Let us begin by working from a common original source:

“Cuba’s political system, like other communist-party states, is based on a unitary concept of politics with the vanguard of the party at its core. Although separation of powers among branches of government or competition among parties plays no meaningful role in Cuban politics, the legitimacy of the political system and accountability to the governed are crucial issues in any country, and ones that the PCC has not solved. The effort to make *conciencia* and popular democracy the bases of legitimacy and accountability has clearly failed. A situation in which leaders are accountable to no one but themselves has all but depleted the legitimacy once conferred by the revolution.” (Perez-Stable 2007, 356).

1. Not citing a source

a) Quoting directly: always employ full citation and quotation marks.

Plagiarism: ...Cuba does not possess a vibrant political party system, but like other communist-party states, is based on a unitary concept of politics with the vanguard of the party at its core.....

Correct: ...Cuba does not have a vibrant political party system, but “like other communist-party states, is based on a unitary concept of politics with the vanguard of the party at its core” (Perez-Stable 2007, 356).

b) Paraphrasing: always employ full citation and refer to source within text.

¹ The following model is based on one developed by the University of Guelph. “Academic Integrity at the University of Guelph.” The University of Guelph http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/plagiarism_sample.cfm (Accessed August 21, 2009).

Plagiarism:...Cuba does not possess a vibrant political party system. It is a one-party state that centralizes politics by giving power to political elites within the party.

Correct: ... Cuba does not possess a vibrant political party system. According to Perez Stable, it is a one-party state that centralizes politics by giving power to political elites within the party (Perez-Stable 2007, 356).

2. Paraphrasing too closely, even while crediting the source: even if proper citation is employed, you must employ original language when paraphrasing

Plagiarism: Perez-Stable (2007, 356) has observed that the legitimacy and the accountability of the system are problems that the Cuban Communist Party (PCC) has not yet solved.

Correct:...Perez-Stable (2007, 356) has observed that the Cuban Communist Party (PCC) has struggled to establish the legitimacy of the government and satisfy demands that the Cuban government be accountable to the people.

The bottom line: because plagiarism constitutes such a serious offense, it is your responsibility to understand what it is and how to avoid it. One way of preventing plagiarism is, when in doubt, to quote directly from the source and offer full citation. Yet because professors rarely want you to submit a series of quotations in lieu of your own thoughts, you generally must do the hard work required to formulate your own thoughts, which may be informed by, but should not be dependent on, the work of others. Finally, please note that these policies apply to all sources for academic work, including websites, television, and newspapers.

Citation

For this class, please adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style for all citation. The complete Chicago Manual of Style may be located at the ARC. A brief guide may be found at:

<http://www.csuchico.edu/lref/pols/APSA.pdf>

For a copy of this policy and more information about how to avoid plagiarism, visit the Department of Political Science's website at:

<http://www.carroll.edu/academics/polisci/index.cc>

Here is how the above work (Perez-Stable, 2007) would be cited in a bibliography:

Perez-Stable, Marifeli. 2007. "Cuba." In *Introduction to Comparative Politics*, ed. Mark Kesselman, William A. Joseph, and Joel Krieger. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.