

Adapted from Parson, V. (2012, 2018) *Study and Communication Skills for Psychology Students*. UK. Oxford University Press

Academic Misconduct Awareness Penalty 1 Course

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Section 1

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Academic Misconduct Course – Penalty 1: Academic Negligence

- This course is designed:
 - As a supportive approach to help you improve your independent writing skills.
 - To help you understand and identify plagiarism
 - To help you understand and identify collusion
 - To help you avoid plagiarism and collusion in the future

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Why you're taking this course

- You have been given Penalty 1 by the University of Sunderland Academic Misconduct Panel.
- We feel that while you may not have deliberately copied work, you have been negligent in your duty as a student, and have copied or colluded with others in a manner that could constitute academic misconduct.

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Academic Negligence

- Academic Negligence is defined as the following:

“The student has attempted to do their work genuinely and honestly, but has made errors in judgement with referencing and using material from other sources (including fellow students), outside that which would be expected within the remit of the assignment.”

This can be through poor paraphrasing or poor referencing of cited material.

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Academic Misconduct

Academic Misconduct is defined as:

“Any action, or type of cheating, which gains, attempts to gain, or assists others in gaining an unfair academic advantage over other students.”

This is using material that it copied from other sources, deliberately fabricating data, use of unauthorised materials, exam irregularities, the purchase of materials for the purposes of assessment, or any other activity that can undermine integrity essential to academic scholarship and research.

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Academic Misconduct Policy

- The University policy sets out the full range of situations where academic misconduct takes place, and the appropriate penalty for these situations.
- Academic Misconduct is any situation where you have not done the work wholly and completely by yourself, using appropriate referencing.
- You should be completing your own work while at University, any situation where this does not take place can be considered Academic Misconduct
- Academic Negligence is considered to be PENALTY 1.
 - But this can also have Penalty 2 or 3 attached depending on the severity of the incident
- Academic Misconduct is dealt with using PENALTY 2-6

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Penalties for Academic Misconduct - Minor

Penalty	Consequence
Penalty 1A	Academic Misconduct Course
Penalty 1B	Failure to attend the Academic Misconduct Course will result in a warning being held on the student's record for the duration of the programme.
Penalty 2	A formally recorded warning kept on the student's SITS record. Marking reduction. The student may be required to redo the work.
Penalty 3	Marking adjustment
Penalty 4A	Fail the assignment and re-do the work. Re-assessment mark is capped at 40%
Penalty 4B	Fail the assignment and re-do the work. Following re-assessment, the module mark is capped at 40%

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Penalties for Academic Misconduct - Major

Penalty	Consequence
Penalty 5A	Failure in the module, student will re-take the module at the next opportunity. The module mark will be capped at 40% when
Penalty 5B	Failure in the module, the student will re-take the module at the next opportunity. The degree classification will be reduced by one classification.
Penalty 6A	Failure in the module and expulsion from the University. Student cannot exit with their named award, but may be permitted to exit with a lower award.
Penalty 6B	Failure in the module and expulsion from the University. Student will not be permitted to exit with an award or any HE credit for previously passed work.

A note on Contract Cheating

If you buy an assignment from anyone, or ask someone else to write your work for you, that is a very serious case of Academic Misconduct

- Whole or partial pieces of work

This is classed as Penalty 4B or higher

- We take contract cheating very seriously as it is classified as intellectual dishonesty

**So, to avoid anything more serious, your first chance
(Penalty 1) is this course...**

- **BUT... You can only take this course once.**
- Taking this course makes you aware of academic misconduct and how to avoid it, and you are considered to have learned the contents of this course.
- If you make the same mistakes again it is considered to be Academic Misconduct.
 - And you will get a higher penalty.

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Why we have these procedures

- You need to learn to work independently and create your own work
- When you graduate, you are expected to have learned a particular set of skills
 - If you have cheated (this is academic misconduct) then you do not have these skills
 - You will get jobs under false pretences
 - Your employer will see you cannot do what you said you could
 - You will get fired

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Have you heard of Raj Persaud?



- On 19 June 2008 he was found guilty of dishonesty and bringing the profession into disrepute by the GMC. On the following day it was announced by the GMC that his fitness to practise was impaired and he was suspended from practising for three months



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This is the article compared with the original did Raj do? (differences in red/bold)

- Why the Media Refuses to Obey**, by Raj Persaud, *Progress in Neurology and Psychiatry*, Vol 9, issue 2.
- "Milgram's study **demonstrated with brutal clarity that ordinary individuals could be induced to act destructively even in the absence of physical coercion, and humans need not be innately evil or aberrant to act in ways that are reprehensible and inhumane. While we would like to believe that when confronted with a moral dilemma we will act as our conscience dictates, Milgram's obedience experiments teach us that in a concrete situation with powerful social constraints, our moral sense can be all too easily overwhelmed.**"
- Milgram's interest in the study of obedience partly emerged out of a deep concern **with the suffering of fellow Jews at the hands of the Nazis and an attempt to fathom how the Holocaust could have happened.**
- The Man Who Shocked the World**, by Professor Thomas Blass PhD, University of Maryland, in *Psychology Today* (March 2002)
- "[The study] demonstrated with **jarring** clarity that ordinary individuals could be induced to act destructively even in the absence of physical coercion, and humans need not be innately evil or aberrant to act in ways that are reprehensible and inhumane. While we would like to believe that when confronted with a moral dilemma we will act as our conscience dictates, Milgram's obedience experiments teach us that in a concrete situation with powerful social constraints, our moral sense can easily be **trampled.**"
- Milgram's interest in the study of obedience **also** emerged out of a **continuing identification** with the suffering of fellow Jews at the hands of the Nazis and an attempt to fathom how the Holocaust could have happened.

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Consequences of Plagiarism/Collusion

- Raj Persaud did not do his own work and falsified an article. As a result his integrity was questioned and he was suspended from the GMC (General Medical Council).
- Within University, you can lose the opportunity to complete your degree
 - And you will have spent a lot of money for no reason
- Outside the University, you will reduce your chances of gaining sustained and valuable employment
- If you want to get a good job and do well, you will NOT copy work.

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Did you know that...

- Copying and not referencing is classed as intellectual theft
 - Academics (this includes your lecturers) create this work, this is their own research and they have done the leg-work to find answers to the questions being asked in their field
 - Academics own the intellectual rights to their own work
 - If you copy their work and pass it off as your own this called intellectual theft
- Dr Raj Persaud stole the ideas of another person, and he was penalised as a result

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How to avoid Academic Misconduct

- If you did not think of information for yourself (and for most of your degree, this will be the case) ensure you do the following:
 - Cite the source
 - Rephrase it clearly in your own words
- That's it, it's really easy to avoid getting a penalty – do the work yourself!

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What is plagiarism?

- Copying material from other sources (books, journal articles, the internet)
 - Even just little bits (even just a sentence is considered to be plagiarism)
- Not referencing the material you use
 - This means you are not giving credit to the people who thought of what you just wrote down, and this is intellectual theft.
- Paraphrasing badly
 - Just changing a few words.
 - Not referencing the work you have paraphrased

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Exercise 1: What's wrong here?

“Some work has been done on covert orienting within student attentional processes (Grimlock, 1997) which shows that students perform at their best during the mornings, but it has also been found this is only the case after the students involved had eaten a substantial breakfast.”

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**Make notes and answer
this exercise before moving
on to Section 2**

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