Integrity of Science

BME 404
February 17, 2014
My teacher gave me an 'F' on my report. She accused me of plagiarizing off the Internet!

That's outrageous! I'll get her fired! I stole that report years ago from National Geographic magazine and got an 'A' on it!
What is plagiarism?

http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~ar/avoiding_plagiarism/
Plagiarism:
the act of presenting another's work or ideas as your own.

“Plagiarism is using others ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information.”

Copy and Paste

Scales of plagiarism

- Buying, stealing, or borrowing a paper
- Using the source too closely when paraphrasing
- Hiring someone to write your paper
- Building on someone’s ideas without citation
- Copying from another source without citing (on purpose or by accident)

Deliberate Plagiarism — Possibly Accidental Plagiarism

http://www.palomar.edu/atrc/Pod/pod0611.htm
Based on data from Turnitin,

http://www.palomar.edu/atrc/Pod/pod0611.htm
“To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use another person’s idea, opinion, or theory; any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings, or any other pieces of information, that are not common knowledge; quotations of another persons actual spoken or written words; or paraphrase of another persons spoken or written words.”

BOOK REPORTS
DUE TODAY!

"It’s not called ‘plagiarism’ anymore.
It’s ‘pre-packaged originality’.”
Plagiarism as an offense

An academic offense
- SUNY Stony Brook Scholarly Misconduct Policy - p210
  http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/Admin/policy.nsf/pages/p210
- Policies and Procedures Governing Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty
  http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/CAS/ajc.nsf/pages/info

A legal offense
- “Any work created in the USA after March 1, 1989, is automatically protected by copyright, even if there is no copyright notice attached to the work. 17 USC §§102, 401, and 405.” Standler, RB: Plagiarism in Colleges in USA
  http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm
- “The owner of the copyright (i.e., in most cases, the true author) could sue the plagiarist in federal court for violation of the copyright.” Standler, RB: Plagiarism in Colleges in USA
  http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm
Court Cases Against Commercial Sources that Promote Plagiarism

- “No person shall ... attempt to obtain by fraudulent means any diploma, certificate or other instrument purporting to confer any literary, scientific, professional or other degree ...." N.Y. Education Law, §224(2).

- A violation of the section is a misdemeanor and "any person who aids or abets another * * * to violate the provisions of this section" is "liable to the same penalties". N.Y. Education Law, §224(3).

—Standler, RB: Plagiarism in Colleges in USA
http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm
"Intriguing proposal! Give me some time to mull it over and co-opt it as my own."
“Trivial changes in copied text, in an attempt to avoid copyright infringement, are specifically prohibited by law in the USA”

- **Nichols v. Universal Pictures Corp.,** 45 F.2d 119, 121 (2d Cir. 1930) ("It is of course essential to any protection of literary property ... that the right cannot be limited literally to the text, else a plagiarist would escape by immaterial variations.")

- **Sheldon v. Metro-Goldwyn Pictures Corp.,** 81 F.2d 49, 56 (2d Cir. 1936) ("... no plagiarist can excuse the wrong by showing how much of his work he did not pirate.")

- **Steinberg v. Columbia Pictures,** 663 F.Supp. 706 (1987). “A Columbia Pictures' promotional poster infringed an illustration on the cover of *New Yorker* magazine. Although only the words ‘Hudson River’ were the same in both items, the judge ruled that the movie poster was ‘substantially similar’ to the magazine cover.”

—Standler, RB: Plagiarism in Colleges in USA http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm
Steinberg v. Columbia Pictures

A faculty directive does not ameliorate plagiarism

• “Dennis Faulkner was a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. His faculty advisor, Frost, apparently told Faulkner to copy significant amounts of material from research reports written by Frost into Faulkner's dissertation. Faulkner was awarded the Ph.D. degree in May, 1990. Approximately one year later, the faculty voted to begin procedures to revoke Faulkner's doctoral degree, because of Faulkner's plagiarism. Faulkner then argued that the University was stopped from rescinding his degree, because Frost - acting as an agent of the University - had told him to do the copying.”


—Standler, RB: Plagiarism in Colleges in USA
http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm
“The court concluded: The record in this case discloses no act of the University of Tennessee that could possibly be construed as providing authority for Dr. Frost to waive the prohibition against plagiarism, and clearly, Mr. Faulkner either knew or certainly should have known that Dr. Frost possessed no such authority.” *Id.* at *5.  *Faulkner v. Univ. of Tennessee*, 1994 WL 642765 (Tenn.Ct.App. 1994)

“The U.S. Government brought mail fraud and other criminal charges against Dr. Frost, Mr. Faulkner, and three others. The Government proved that Frost operated a scheme to take tuition money paid by government for education of government's employees, where the employees submitted dissertations consisting of plagiarized material.” *U.S. v. Frost*, 125 F.3d 346 (6thCir. 1997), *cert. denied*, 119 S.Ct. 40-41 (1998).

—Standler, RB: Plagiarism in Colleges in USA
http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm
"Plagiarism?" But my roommate gave me permission to use his paper and said I didn't have to cite him.

http://www.pyrczak.com/antiplagiarism/cartoons.htm
Steps to avoid plagiarism

“When material is taken directly from a book, article, speech, statement, remarks, the Internet, or some other source, the writer must provide proper attribution.

When material is quoted word-for-word, a footnote alone is insufficient. The material that represents a direct quotation must either be put within quotation marks or indented.

Even if the author’s exact language is not used, a footnote is required for material that is paraphrased.

Even though new material is added to selected phrases of the original, quotation marks and attribution are required for the latter.

Only phrases that have truly become part of general usage can be used without citation.”

–Standler, RB: Plagiarism in Colleges in USA
http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm
"Really? Someone told me it's not plagiarism if they're dead."