Plagiarism is taking the words or ideas of another and claiming them as your own. It is, quite simply, theft, for a person’s words and ideas are recognized in law as a person’s property. At the very least, it is an attempt to deceive your readers. Therefore, you must exercise great care to avoid even the suggestion of theft or deception. Plagiarism is further defined with examples in the textbooks used in each course. Moreover, the university policy on plagiarism, which the English Department fully endorses, appears in the annual Student Handbook. The possible penalties for plagiarism may include failure in the course, suspension from the university, and/or expulsion from the university.

I understand the prohibitions against plagiarism and pledge that all writing submitted by me in this course will be solely my own except that which I shall otherwise document.