**Academic Integrity Statement**

Academic misconduct involves deception to improve a grade, earn course credit, complete a degree, or create an unfair academic advantage for oneself or disadvantage to another in the academic community. All students at the University of Southern Mississippi should familiarize themselves with the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fusm.policystat.com%2Fpolicy%2F11838205%2Flatest%2F&data=05%7C01%7CKelly.Lester%40usm.edu%7C6c70097206f842e2d76f08daf31a135f%7C7f3da4be2722432ebfa764080d1eb1dc%7C0%7C0%7C638089590559809530%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=h9cp1ZynVJLSl0Fxz0l30bRK%2BhFDBEAVh31EZFAEgqQ%3D&reserved=0) to become familiar with what actions constitute academic misconduct, a violation of that policy. Southern Miss values “an approach to academics, research, and personal conduct based on integrity and civility” and the Student Academic Integrity Policy supports that University value. Forms of academic misconduct may include, but are not limited to:

* Cheating - Cheating is a broad category of academic misconduct characterized by an attempt to gain academic advantage through inappropriate means or impede the academic achievement of others.
* Plagiarism - The use of another person's or source’s words, creative works, or ideas without appropriate quotation or attribution; claiming or submitting for academic credit the work of another.
* Lying - The misrepresentation of one’s academic work, lying to an instructor to increase a grade, or lying to an instructor regarding an academic integrity violation.
* Acquiring or Distributing Information Inappropriately - The act of distributing or obtaining course assignments or examination questions or answers from sources not approved by the instructor or proctor (includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized use of the Internet, test banks associated with course text and previous student work).
* Fabrication or Falsification of Data - Any statement of untruth in any matters related to the academic experience, including but not limited to forgery; false claims of authorship; falsification of information, data, or results derived from or related to research or to laboratory experiments.
* Stealing or Defacing - The act of intentionally taking, transferring, defacing, or destroying, without right or permission, any property related to the academic mission of the University, including an attempt to impede others.
* Multiple Submissions - The submission, more than once, without authorization by any instructors involved, of substantial portions of the same work, including oral reports or work submitted for retaken courses.
* Conspiracy - The act of agreeing or planning with any person to commit any violation of the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

If you commit an act of academic misconduct, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur to the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.”  Should you be accused of academic misconduct, please visit the [Academic Integrity Website](https://www.usm.edu/academic-integrity/) or email [integrity@usm.edu](mailto:integrity@usm.edu) for any questions you may have about your rights and about the academic integrity process. Southern Miss provides many campus resources that are detailed in this syllabus and will be discussed by your professors; please utilize those to help you learn. At Southern Miss, we care about your personal work and learning journey.