

## MOVING IMAGE AND SOUND: BASIC ISSUES AND TRAINING GT-2920

Fall 2013

Thursday 1-5pm, room 643, 665 Broadway

additional lab sessions to be scheduled Thursdays 10-12 or alternate times

Instructor: Ann Harris  
212-998-1606  
665 Broadway, room 636  
office hours by appointment

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### Class requirements:

Attendance is required at all regularly scheduled class sessions. Any unexcused absence may result in an incomplete. All activities (practice sessions and field trips) not scheduled during the Thursday class time (i.e., 10-5) are strongly recommended, but failure to attend will not result in an incomplete.

Class participation is absolutely required in this class. The major part (70 percent) of your grade is based on class participation. This includes hands on projects, practice, and tests, as well as verbal class participation.

There is one written project in the class. This project includes an in-class presentation. The project represents 30 percent of your grade. Your ability to deliver the paper and presentation on time will be a significant part of that grade.

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### Required Readings:

- **Moving Image Technology: From Zoetrope to Digital**, Leo Enticknap, 2005, Walflower Press
  - **How Video Works: From Analog to High Definition (2nd edition)**, Marcus Weise and Diana Weynand, 2007, Focal Press
  - Other readings are taken from a variety of sources, many of them available online, through links provided on the web version of this syllabus. Some readings and resources will be available through *NYU Classes*.
  - To access *NYU Classes*, log in to NYUHome (<https://login.nyu.edu>), click the Academics tab, and then click the course link in the list provided. If this class does not appear in the list, try clicking the "Update Classes Information" link at the bottom of the channel. If you still have trouble accessing an *NYU Classes* site, contact the IT Service Desk at 1-212-998-3333.
  - Many of the texts not available online will also be on reserve at the Cinema Studies/MIAP Film Study Center, located on the sixth floor of 721 Broadway
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## Class Goals:

After completing this course, you should:

- Understand the history of moving image formats and the conditions for their development
- Be able to identify a wide variety of moving image formats
- Understand the basics of film and video systems
- Understand the physical properties of moving image media
- Be familiar with storage standards for various kinds of media
- Have mastered basic moving image media handling techniques and skills
- Have achieved basic moving image inspection and condition assessment skills
- Be familiar with a range of documentation/metadata schemes and tools
- Have demonstrated basic film repair skills

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## Class Sessions

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Sept 5  | Introduction   |
| Sept 12 | Film Formats   |
| Sept 19 | Video and Audio Formats / Audio for Film   |
| Sept 26 | Film Identification/Inspection and Documentation / Color Systems                               |
| Oct 3   | Media Storage / Film Repair Techniques and Tools   |
| Oct 10  | Video and Audio Format Identification, Inspection, Assessment, Prioritization for Preservation |
| Oct 17  | Film Handling and Presentation: Projection and Optics  |
| Oct 24  | Video and Audio: Capturing Metadata; Digital Imaging   |
| Oct 31  | Film Preservation Issues   |
| Nov 7   | no class - AMIA Conference   |
| Nov 14  | Analog Signal Errors / Audio Preservation  |
| Nov 21  | Student Presentations of Format and Process History Project                                    |
| Dec 5   | Video Preservation Issues  |
| Dec 12  | 35mm Projection / Film Access Copies / Wrap Up   |

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## Sept 5 -- Introduction

Topics covered:

What is this class about?

Class participants' backgrounds, skills and goals

**Screening:** *Captain Celluloid Versus the Film Pirates*, 1966, excerpt

Core Concepts

Audio Visual Systems

**Practice:** Take a look at some examples of audio visual media

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## Sept 13 -- Film Formats

Assignments due before class:

Visit websites:

- History of sub-35 mm Film Formats & Cameras on [Welcome to Ani-mato!](#), Jan-Eric Nyström, 2003-5.
- Descriptions of the 4 film gauges on the homepage of <http://www.littlefilm.org/>
- [Chronology of MP Films](#), Eastman Kodak.
- [More than one hundred years of Film Sizes](#) by Michael Rogge, 1996.
- [The Ultimate Table of Formats-- Aspect Ratios](#) by Mark Baldock.
- Section 2 (Film Specifics: Stocks and Soundtracks) of the [Home Film Preservation Guide](#)

Read:

- Annette Melville, ed., "[Understanding Film and How It Decays](#)", The Film Preservation Guide, San Francisco: The Film Preservation Foundation, 2004, pp 6-18.
- Leo Enticknap, "Film" and "Cinematography and Film Formats", Moving Image Technology, pp 4-73.

Optional:

- National Film and Sound Archive: [Film Preservation Handbook](#) (first 5 sections: Film Construction, Base Polymers and Decomposition, Gelatin, Image Forming Materials, Damage to Film)
- Ken Marsh, "The Big Works", Independent Video, pages 1-48. (*Find this on NYU Classes or read reserve copy in Cinema Studies/MIAP Film Study Center*)

Topics covered:

- Introduction to the physical and chemical structure of film
- History and variety of film formats
- What artifacts exist as a result of media production? What should be saved? How can Knowledge of production process aid identification?

Practice:

- Film Handling Techniques and Tools
- Use of rewinds and split reels

Important:

Sign up for one Bobst Library Research/Resources Session.  
Choose written project topics in class.

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## Sept 19 -- Video and Audio Formats / Audio For Film

Assignments due before class:

Read:

- Leo Enticknap, Moving Image Technology, pp. 98-131 and 159-186
- Dana M. Lee, Television: Technical Theory, [Audio](#) and [Analog Video](#)
- Weise and Weynand, "Scanning", pp. 15-23; "Synchronizing the Analog Signal", pp. 25-37; "Magnetic Video Recording Formats", How Video Works, pp 191-197
- [PrestoSpace Magnetic Media Assessment Report](#), pp 9-12.
- [Video Preservation Handbook](#), pp 1-6 section II.

Visit websites:

- [Video Format Identification Guide](#)
- Video Interchange, [Vintage Audio History](#)
- Texas Commission on the Arts [Videotape Identification and Assessment Guide](#)

Review:

- [Pictorial History of Media Technology](#)
- [Background of legacy videotape formats](#) – Review background only
- [Video Chronology](#)

Optional--Watch and Listen:

- Sound Waves and Their Sources <http://www.archive.org/details/SoundWavesAn>
- Electromagnetism <http://www.archive.org/details/electromagnetism>
- Sound Recording and Reproduction (Sound on Film) <http://www.archive.org/details/SoundRec1943>

Optional--Read:

- VideoFreex, "Hardware," Spaghetti City Video Manual, pp. 3-27
- Ken Marsh, "Working the Big Works", Independent Video, pages 7-47.
- Charles Bensinger, "A Grand Tour of Video Technology" and "The Video System", [Video Guide](#), 14-32.

Topics covered:

- Introduction to the physical and chemical structure of audio and video media
- The technologies behind audio and video signals and formats
- History of audio and video formats
- Relationship between media and signal

**Screening:** *Discovering Cinema: Movies Learn to Talk*, 2004, Eric Lange and Serge Bromberg

Practice:

- Re-housing media
  - Practice loading and transporting media
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## Sept 26 -- Film Identification/Inspection and Documentation / Color Systems

Assignments due before class:

Read:

- Leo Enticknap, "Colour," *Moving Image Technology*, pp. 74-97.
- [Guide to Identifying Color Movie Film Stocks](#) by Paul Ivester.
- Paul Read and Mark-Paul Meyer, "Identification of Archive Film and Interpretation of Historical Data," *Restoration of Motion Picture Film*, pp. 53-68.
- [Timeline of Historical Film Colors](#).
- Weise and Weynand, "Color Video", *How Video Works*, pp 57-71.
- Annette Melville, ed., *The Film Preservation Guide*:
  - [Film Handling and Inspection](#),
  - [Film Condition Report](#), National Screen and Sound Archive, Australia,
- Barbara Flueckiger, [Film Identification and Handling](#), *Film Preservation Handbook*
- Kodak, [Handling Processed Film](#)
- [How is Shrinkage Measured?](#), AMIA, 2003.
- [User Guide for AD Strips](#), Image Permanence Institute.

Topics covered:

- Film Color
  - **Screening:** *Discovering Cinema: Movies Dream in Color*, 2004, Eric Lange/ Serge Bromberg
- Film Identification
  - Film Formats
  - Recognizing Film Element Type (release print, A/B rolls, negatives, etc.)
  - Recognizing basic film types (reversal vs. print from negative; kinds of sound tracks, etc.)
  - Film Edge Codes
- Film Inspection
  - Recognizing mechanical damage to film
  - Recognizing chemical/biological damage to film
- What is vinegar syndrome?
  - Using and reading AD strips

Practice:

- edge code reading exercise
  - reading and setting up AD strip tests
  - rewind practice
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## Oct 3 -- Media Storage / Film Repair Techniques and Tools

Assignments due before class:

Read:

- Screensound Australia, Film Preservation Handbook
  - [Condition Reporting Program](#),
  - [Photographic Image Quality](#),
  - [Cold Storage of Film](#),
  - [Preparation for Long Term Storage](#),
  - [Occupational Health & Safety](#),
- [IPI Climate Notebook](#), Image Permanence Institute.
- James M. Reilly, [IPI Storage Guide for Acetate Film](#), Image Permanence Institute
- Peter Z. Adelstein, [IPI Media Storage Quick Reference Guide](#), Image Permanence Institute
- Leo Enticknap, "Exhibition and Presentation," Moving Image Technology, 132-158.
- Torkell Saetervodet, "Pixel—the Digital Picture Element," FIAF Digital Projection Guide, 2012, 17-29.
- Kodak, [Splicing For the Professional](#), Film Notes Issue #H-50-01. On the Film-Tech page, click on "Manuals", then choose, under "Quick Links", "Eastman Kodak Film Notes". It is the first listed
- Small Movies, , [The Art of Splicing](#).
- Screensound Australia, [Film Repair](#), Film Preservation Handbook.
- Harold Brown, "Film Joins (Splices): Comments on Cement and Tape Splices," Technical Manual, FIAF Preservation Commission, 1985.

Topics covered:

- Film Inspection
- Film shrinkage
  - Use of Shrinkage gauge
- Film Quality Assessment
  - Color quality, contrast, grain, resolution, sharpness
- Film Storage Issues
- Using 16mm film viewers
  - Table Top Viewers
  - Cinescan
  - Steenbeck
- Film Repair Techniques and Tools
  - hot splicers
  - tape splicers
  - Sprocket repair

**Important:**

**Sign up for first film splicing practice time appointments.**

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## Oct 10 -- Video and Audio Format Identification, Inspection and Assessment

Assignments due before class

Read:

- [Task Force to establish selection criteria of analogue and digital audio contents for transfer to data formats for preservation purposes](#), Click Publications -> IASA Publications and scroll down.
- AMIA Videotape Preservation Fact Sheets, [Tape Inspection](#) (Fact Sheet 9, begins page 20), Video Preservation Fact Sheets, 2003.
- John W.C. Van Bogart, [Magnetic Tape Storage and Handling](#).
- Fred R. Byers, [Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs](#).
- PrestoSpace [Magnetic Media Assessment Report](#), pp 14–42.
- Video Preservation Handbook, pp 7, section II.
- Dana M. Lee, Television: Technical Theory: [How It Connects Together](#) and [Waveform Monitors and Vectorscopes](#)

Oct 10–continued

Review:

- NYU ViPIRS: [Visual & Playback Inspection Ratings System](#)
- Image Permanence Institute [Magnetic Media Study Report](#)
- Texas Commission on the Arts [Videotape Identification and Assessment Guide](#)

Visit website:

- [Experimental TV Center](#)

Topics covered:

- The state of assessment and prioritization>
- Available tools and guides
- Database versus Spreadsheet
- Degradation mechanisms and risks of loss
- Care and handling of AV media for preservation
- Equipment and tools needed for identification and inspection

Practice:

- Practice using identification and inspection tools

Important:

- **Format History Outline due next week (10/17) before class begins, (approximately 2 pages)**
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## Oct 17 -- Film Handling and Presentation: Projection and Optics

Assignments due before class:

Read:

- [Handling and Projecting 35mm Archive and Studio Prints: Voluntary Guidelines](#), National Preservation Board, Public Access and Educational Use Task Force, 1994.
- Edward Blasko, "Theatrical Projection," *The Book of Film Care*, Eastman Kodak Company, 1992, pp 62-69.
- Paolo Cherchi Usai, "[Preserving Film Outside the Vaults: A Report on Projection, Shipping and Temporary Storage Facilities](#)," *Journal of Film Preservation*, number 64, 2002, pp. 9-15.
- Torkell Saetervadet, "Treatment of Archival Material," *The Advanced Projection Manual*, FIAF/Norwegian Film Institute, 2006, pp. 57-62.
- Torkell Saetervadet, "The DCP File Format," *FIAF Digital Projection Guide*, 2012, 31-49.

Topics covered:

- Inside a 16mm Projector
- Projection practice

Important:

**Format History Outline due before class (approximately 2 pages)**

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## Oct 24 -- Video and Audio: Capturing Metadata / Digital Imaging

Assignments due before class:

Read:

- National Information Standards Organization, [A Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections](#)
- Sound Directions Publication, Read Chapter 4. "[Metadata](#)".  
Bobst Library Preservation-Vipirs project: [Manual for VHS/U-Matic](#) and [1/4" Audio Tape](#)

Review:

- [AES Audio Metadata Standards](#)
- [SMPTE Metadata Dictionary](#).
- [METS primer](#).
- [PBCore MetaData Dictionary and Guide](#).
- [PREMIS](#)

Topics covered:

- Focus on Technical and Structural metadata
- The role of metadata generated in inspection, assessment and preparation for long term storage and reformatting
- Audio Tape history and tape structure

Practice:

Practice loading and transporting audio formats  
Continued Practice using identification and inspection tools

**Important:**

- **Class meets at 10am next week**
- **Cineric visit next week at 2pm.**

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## Oct 31 -- Film Preservation Issues

Assignments due before class

Read:

- Read, Paul and Mark-Paul Meyer. "Introduction to the Restoration of Motion Picture Film", Restoration of Motion Picture Film, Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann, 2000, pp 1-5.
- Gartenberg, Jon, "[The Fragile Emulsion](#)", The Moving Image 2:2 (Fall 2002), pp 142-152
- Frye, Brian. "The Accidental Preservationist: An Interview with Bill Brand", Film History 15:2 (2003), p 214
- Annette Melville, The Film Preservation Guide.
  - [The Curatorial Role](#)
  - [Duplication](#)
- Leo Enticknap, "Archival Preservation," Moving Image Technology, pp. 187-201.
- Eastman Kodak, "Dealing With a Laboratory", Motion Picture Film, Rochester: Eastman Kodak, 2000.

Optional Reading

- Screen Sound Australia, [Photographic Duplication](#), Film Preservation Handbook.
- [Association of Cinema & Video Laboratories Handbook](#)

Topics covered:

Film Preservation Issues:

- Film preservation terminology: How do we differentiate among the terms preservation, conservation, restoration, reconstruction?
- What are some of the major issues with film preservation?
- What is the role of the film laboratory?
- Film Preservation--using digital means

**Important:**

**Tour of Cineric Film Lab, Today, 2pm., 630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 508, between 44th and 45th Streets.**

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**Nov 7 -- No Class -- AMIA Conference**

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**Nov 14 -- Analog Signal Errors / Audio Preservation**

Part of this session (3-5pm) will meet in Bobst Library, 2nd floor, Digital Library

Assignments due before class:

Read:

- [A/V Artifact Atlas](#), BAVC
- [Johannes Gfeller](#), Agather Jarczyk, Joanna Phillips, Compendium of Image Errors in Analogue Video, pp. 48-115 (there is a copy of this book on reserve in the [Film Study Center](#))
- The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, [Digital File Types](#)
- The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, [Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Archival Materials for Electronic Access](#) read:
  - Technical Overview, Imaging Workflow, Digitization Specification for Record Types, 26-61
  - Appendix D: File Format Comparison, 91-93

Topics Covered:

Analog Signal Errors

Practice:

Practice loading and transporting various audio media

**Important:**

**Format History paper and class presentations due next week, Nov. 21st. Turn in digital copies of paper + bibliography and presentation before class begins.**

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**Nov 21 -- Student Presentations of Format / Process History Project**

**Format History Papers must be delivered by the start of class; Class meets at noon**

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## Dec 5 -- Video Preservation Issues

### Assignments due before class

#### Read:

- Luke Hones, Experimental Video Center, [Reel to Real: A Case Study of BAVC's Remastering Model](#)
- Johannes Gfeller, Agather Jarczyk, Joanna Phillips, Compendium of Image Errors in Analogue Video, pp. 160-170 (there is a copy of this book on reserve in the [Film Study Center](#))
- David Rice and Chris Lacinak, [Digital Tape Preservation Strategy: Preserving Data or Video?](#)
- Library of Congress, [Sustainability of Digital Formats: Planning for Library of Congress Collections](#)
- Chris Lacinak, [A Primer on Codecs for Moving Image and Sound Archives](#)
- Chris Lacinak, panel chair, AMIA/IASA 2010 • [Wrappers and Codecs: A Survey of Selection Strategies](#)

#### Topics covered:

- Analog Video History: What Are We Preserving
- Analog Video Errors
- Characteristics of Digital Video Formats
- Preservation Formats: what are the issues?

#### Screenings:

- **How TV Works**, Dan Sandin, 1977, 27 min. 28 sec.
- **Calligrams**, Steina and Woody Vasulka, 1970 (excerpt: 4 min.)
- **Video Tape Repair**, 1986 (excerpt: 5 min.)
- **Playback: Preserving Analog Video** (excerpts)

#### Practice:

- Video Cleaning techniques

#### Important:

**Class meets next week at 10am, room 648, 721 Broadway.**

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## Dec 12 -- 35mm Projection / Low Budget Film Access Copies / Wrap Up

Class Meets at 10:00am to noon - The 35mm Projection Booth, 721 Broadway, room 648  
1:00pm – The MIAP Lab

### Assignments due before class:

#### Read:

- Torkell Saetervadet, "Designing and Equipping a Cinema for the Presentation of Modern and Historic Films," The Advanced Projection Manual, FIAF/Norwegian Film Institute, 2006, pp. 11-56.
- Cinema Studies Department 35mm Projection Manual
- AMIA Venue Assessment for 35mm Projection
- [Movie Stuff website](#)
- Cinema Studies Department Film Sniper Manual (on Blackboard)
- [Preserving Early Motion Picture History with the Kinetta Archival Scanner](#)

#### Topics Covered:

- 10am Session – 35mm Projection
- 1pm Session – low budget film digitization

(1pm to 5pm) - Digital Imaging: Scanning Still Images Class Meets at 10:00am-1:00pm in Bobst Library, 2nd floor, Digital Library  
Class resumes at 2:00pm in the MIAP Lab

## Research Assignment

### Examples of student work from 2003-2012

**All projects must be submitted in electronic format. The final versions of these projects will be made part of the MIAP digital archive, available online.**

**Research Project—Historical Paper and Presentation:** In this project, each student will choose one film, video or audio format or one film, video or audio process to research. Students must create an annotated\* bibliography and a detailed description/history that must include:

- time period for the format / process
- physical/chemical makeup and properties
  - (oxide used, track configuration, physical dimensions, housing, sprocket size and configuration, varieties of emulsion composition and characteristics, etc., as appropriate to the format/media)
  - If you are researching a process, provide a detailed description of how the process worked.
- associated playback devices or equipment
- competing formats / processes
- main user groups and use environments
- well known content associated with the format / process
- formats/processes that preceded and followed
- what, if any, technological capabilities were introduced on entry of the format / process into the market?
- what, if any, technological capabilities lead to the demise of the format / process in the market?
- known preservation issues/concerns

**The bibliography should cover the whole format / process, but the paper, beyond the elements above, can focus on one aspect or variation of the format or process.**

**FORMATS / PROCESSES** (you must choose a topic from this list or **propose an alternative, with a written justification** that must be accepted by your instructor):

- Spirograph (Charles Urban)
- Eidoloscope (early widescreen process)
- Cine-System 3
- Lumicolor
- Vitascope
- Agfacolor
- 8 track audio cassette
- Recordio Discs
- 8mm film
- V-Cord Video system
- Ampex VRX-1000
- Loewe Optacord 600
- Betacam SP
- Sony D-1
- Octaplex Video Recorder
- Ultrasonic splicer
- Cineon system

- video tape cleaning processes
- Philips CD-i
- Digital Compact Cassette (DCC)

### Resource Suggestions:

- [Video Preservation Library](#), Timothy Vitale and Paul Messier
- [The Pal Site](#)
- [The American Widescreen Museum](#), information on color processes, sound, as well as widescreen processes.
- Manufacturer Websites
- Equipment Manuals
- **Journal of the SMPE/SMPTE** (digitized versions of some issues, post 1930: <http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=motion%20picture%20engineers%20AND%20mediatype%3Atexts>), hard copies of many issues available through the department [study center](#)
- Brown, **FIAF Technical Manual**
- Coe, **History of Movie Photography**
- Kattelle, **Home Movies: A History of the American Industry 1897-1979.**
- Ryan, **A History of Motion Picture Color Technology**

- **Due dates---Two page outline, October 17.**
- **Final written report, November 21, at the beginning of class; In class presentation, November 21.**

\***Annotated Bibliography** <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

**Contributors:** Dana Bisignani, Allen Brizee

A **bibliography** is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called "references" or "works cited" depending on the style format you are using. A bibliography usually just includes the bibliographic information (i.e., the author, title, publisher, etc.).

An **annotation** is a summary and/or evaluation.

Therefore, an **annotated bibliography** includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources. Depending on your project or the assignment, your annotations may do one or more of the following:

- **Summarize:** Some annotations merely summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is.
- **Assess:** After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?
- **Reflect:** Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

Your annotated bibliography may include some of these or all of these.

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**Plagiarism Advisory:**

Plagiarism and other violations of the University's published policies are serious offenses and will be punished severely. Plagiarism includes presenting or paraphrasing a phrase, sentence, or passage of a published work (including material from the World-Wide Web) in a paper or exam answer without quotation marks and attribution of the source, submitting your own original work toward requirements in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors, submitting a paper written by someone else, submitting as your own work any portion of a paper or research that you purchased from another person or commercial firm, and presenting in any other way the work, ideas, data, or words of someone else without attribution. These are punishable offenses whether intended or unintended (e.g., occurs through poor citations or confusion about how to reference properly).

You are encouraged to read additional texts and to discuss the issues of this course and your papers with others; but if you use ideas that come from others, you must acknowledge their help. It is always better to err on the side of acknowledging other people than to fail to do so.

Other offenses against academic integrity include: collaborating with others on assignments without the express permission of the instructor, giving your work to another student to submit as his/her own, copying answers from another student or source materials during examinations, secreting or destroying library or reference materials. . If you have any questions about how to cite sources, what constitutes appropriate use of a text, or other matters of academic integrity, please discuss them with your course instructor.

**Anyone caught plagiarizing will fail the course.** In addition, violations of academic integrity, including plagiarism, call for disciplinary action through the University.