Plagiarism, what is it?

• “Taking and using the ideas, writings, works or inventions of another as if they were ones own.” (Senate, 2008:2)

• In short: Academic Theft
Plagiarism type: not quoting

• Using someone else’s words with a reference, but not using quotation marks.
• Inserting a word or two in the “borrowed” text is still plagiarism!
• How do you use a good piece that someone else has written?
  • You paraphrase: Restate the idea in your own words. This often helps to make it clear -- and don’t forget to reference.

• Penalties:
  – Up to 15% = “Minor” offence - deduction of up to 40%
  – More than 15% = “Major” offence – deduct up to 100%
Plagiarism type: unacknowledged

• Using text, paraphrasing, others’ ideas, diagrams etc. that you do not acknowledge, ie., reference.

• What should you do?
  – reference properly

• Penalties:
  – Up to 15% = “Minor” offence - deduction of up to 50%
  – More than 15% = “Major” offence – deduct up to 100% and DP withdrawal.
Plagiarism type: **syndication**

- Syndication means you share material with one or more of your fellow students.

**Penalties:**

- Up to 15%
  - No collusion – “Minor” – deduction up to 100%
  - Collusion -“Major” - up to 100% / Category B.
- More than
  - No collusion – “Major” - deduct up to 50%
  - Collusion – “Major” - DP withdrawal.
Plagiarism type: **copying**

• You copy from another student without their knowing.

• Penalties:
  – Up to 15% = “Major” offence. Category B.
  – More than 15% = “Major” offence – DP withdrawal or Senate Plagiarism Tribunal.
Categories

• **A**: First time minor. Dealt with by the lecturer. Problem is explained, correct practice is encouraged, candidate counselled and warned. Mark penalty imposed.

• **B**: Repeat minor offence or as defined above. Dealt with by the Department Plagiarism Committee. A replacement assignment with marks deducted.

• **C**: As defined and cases to be heard by the Senate Plagiarism Tribunal. Penalties up to exclusion from Rhodes.
So, what to do?

• Prevention is better than cure.
• So, take note of the types of plagiarism and avoid them. Do your own work.
• Acknowledge: Reference properly
• The “Turnitin” facility:
  – Note, it can take up to 6 hours to get a report, so don’t rely on this facility.
  – A similarity of more than 20% should be cause for concern.
  – A high similarity does not necessarily mean you have plagiarised.
  – A low similarity does not necessarily mean you have NOT plagiarised.