**Plagiarism & Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is the act of representing someone else’s intellectual work as your own. Plagiarism is a serious offense, because it undermines the integrity that supports a scholarly community. At the core of Caltech’s mission is the goal to “expand human knowledge,” and when you take ideas from others instead of producing your own ideas, you undermine that mission.

Often cases of plagiarism can arise due not to intent to deceive a reader, but instead due to a student’s confusion about how to properly present ideas which are not his or her own. The ability to show a reader how your ideas relate to those of other writers and thinkers is a key writing skill for students and scholars in all fields. The standards for working with texts and documentation can vary across disciplines and assignments. If you are experiencing confusion about whether or how to cite your sources, please ask for guidance from your professor **before** submitting an assignment.

I expect each student to uphold the Caltech Honor Code: "No member of the Caltech community shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the Caltech community." Students who violate the honor code through plagiarism or other means will be referred to the Board of Control (<http://donut.caltech.edu/ascit/BoC_Reps>).