

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

1. *Instructor Academic Discretion:* The government department recognizes the necessity of academic freedom. As such, each instructor maintains the right to stipulate rules in addition to this syllabus concerning assignments, make-up work, grading rubrics, classroom recordings, excused absences, extra credit, and any other matters within the individual course offerings. All of the supplemental rules will be made available to the students at the start of the semester or in advance of the completion dates for individual assignments.
2. *Academic Freedom:* The government department recognizes the right of the instructor and the students to address controversial, public issues. These conversations may result in serious disagreements and the use of distasteful or offensive language. Nevertheless, the freedom of speech in the classroom will be respected so that ideas may be challenged and truth may be pursued. Consequently, the department firmly upholds the right of instructors and students to express in verbal, written, or symbolic communication their understanding, opinion, and knowledge on controversial public matters, however offensive that expression may be.

Academic freedom does not protect language that constitutes a direct threat against another person's life, liberty, or property, nor does it protect against libel, slander, or obscenity. Furthermore, academic freedom does not protect a student who disrupts the learning environment by violating Panola's student code of conduct, nor does it act as an excuse for violations of the academic honesty policy. Consequently, students are expected to dress and behave in class in accordance with college standards. The instructor and the college reserve the right to remove students from the class, fail students, and hold disciplinary actions in accordance with college policy for the above violations.

3. *Academic Honesty:* The central theme of education is the enlightenment of the mind. This can only be achieved by hard, honest work. Consequently, cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited in the course.

Cheating: A student must not receive from or give to another student information, answers, or help during a graded assignment. A student must not "steal" answers or information from another student. A student must not use any unauthorized sources for answers during an assignment. A student must not obtain exam questions illegally, tamper with assignment questions, or change the results of an assignment after it has been graded.

Plagiarism: A student must not take another person's ideas, words, or information and present them as one's own. A student must not take any information or material from any AI system and present it as one's own. All borrowed information must be properly quoted and cited. Moreover, since academic integrity is based on the originality of a student's work, no student may submit an assignment that contains an excessive amount of properly cited material. The standards and violations of academic honesty may be further defined by individual instructors, who reserve the right to employ any means of proving academic dishonesty.

Students have the right to contest accusations of plagiarism or cheating through the college appeals process.

4. Course participation is tantamount to successful learning. Quiz and exam grades are not always indicative of a student's actual performance in a class. Consequently, the instructor reserves the right to adjust a student's grade for better or worse based on class performance. Consistent engagement, excellent conduct, and a clear thirst for knowledge may be rewarded with a higher grade. Conversely, poor conduct, such as inappropriate behavior or derogatory language may result in a lowered grade or complete dismissal from the class. The final decision falls on the instructor's discretion.