**Lecture One: Plagiarism**

**Introduction**

This Section is an attempt to explain the meaning of plagiarism and how to avoid it by using various techniques. Plagiarism is a real danger that most students are not aware of, and this could result in big trouble as to the validity and objectivity of research. For this reason, a clear and sophisticated definition is provided together with solutions and ways of avoiding it. At the end of the section a number of exercises are given as a recapitulation for better practice.

**1. Definition of Plagiarism**

When doing research, it is always good and necessary to read much on the selected topic for the sake of being inspired by the others’ ideas as well as style. On the one hand, this serves in strengthening one’s opinions and viewpoints. On the other hand, it gives the research more credibility and objectivity. Whether writing short papers, magister dissertations or doctorate theses, relying on a variety of sources is something inevitable.

Higher education is not just attending lectures, sitting exams and obtaining grades. An important part is learning how to do research. The latter requires of freshmen to be able to gather information, filter and select what they exactly need and most of all document them properly and accurately. Mastering these skills, as I prefer to call them, results in better combination and presentation of one’s investigations. Of course, if students are not aware of plagiarism, and techniques of avoiding it, they will not accomplish the tasks as well as need be.

Defining plagiarism clearly and precisely is our goal in this section. In simple words, it is the use of someone else’s production (oral or written, exact words or ideas, charts, tables, graphics, figures, etc.) without acknowledging the original author.

Obvious examples of plagiarism include:

* Copying the exact words from an article, book, lecture, or another source without using the quotation marks and acknowledging the original author(s);
* Paraphrasing the idea(s) of someone else without referring to them;
* Copying tables, charts, figures or make tables, charts or figures out of data provided by others without mentioning the source(s).