Modern Language Department Policy on Plagiarism

The Modern Language department asks for different kinds of writing as the student advances through the levels. In the initial stages of language learning, a teacher will often ask for a summary of the story. Students should draw on the original writing as a model for the summary. They should use sentences and parts of sentences that they can easily remember when they go to the board to write a summary or take a quiz on that material. We want the student to absorb the patterns as correct models of speech in the foreign language. This kind of factual recounting of a story is not plagiarism. In the more advanced classes, students will frequently write analytic essays and make oral presentations; with these they must give credit to any sources they have borrowed for their work.

- Students must give credit to any ideas that they have received beyond their own thinking or classroom discussion, whether from the internet, printed materials or oral communications. Any outside source must be appropriately documented.
- If students copy from another student’s work, with the intent of passing off that work as their own, the department considers that copying to be an act of plagiarism.
- If students translate any material from English or any other language into the studied language with the aim of submitting that work as their own, then again this is an act of plagiarism. This bars the use of any computerized translators.
- Any student who submits a work more than once in an attempt to pass it off as original the succeeding times is committing an act of plagiarism.

If we find a student to have plagiarized according to the above criteria, we will turn the case over to the Deans’ Office for possible action. In any case of academic dishonesty, no credit can be given and the student will receive the equivalent of a failing grade in that assignment.