UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Additional Academic Course Policies and Support Services

In addition to policies included on your course syllabus, the following policies cover all students and academic courses offered at the University of South Alabama.

Academic Disruption Policy and Class Demeanor

The University of South Alabama respects the right of instructors to teach and students to learn.

Maintenance of these rights requires an academic environment that does not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights faculty and staff members have the responsibility to:

- Establish and implement academic standards
- Establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each academic setting
- Document and report incidents of academic disruption
- Refer for disciplinary action those students whose behavior may be judged to be disruptive under the Code of Student Conduct

Disruptive academic behavior is defined as individual or group conduct that interrupts or interferes with any educational activity or environment, infringes upon the rights and privileges of others, results in or threatens the destruction of property, and/or is otherwise prejudicial to the maintenance of order in an academic environment. An academic environment is defined as a classroom, laboratory, library, study hall, field trip or similar setting in which formal learning is taking place.

Though dependent upon the size and nature of the academic setting, disruption refers to behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of an activity.

Disruptive behavior may range from the mildly annoying (which would be tolerated as much as possible) to clearly disruptive, dangerous and/or violent behavior which would never be tolerated.

The University of South Alabama's policy regarding Academic Disruption is found in *The Lowdown* (www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/).

Changes in Course Requirements

Not all classes progress at the same rate thus course requirements might have to be modified as circumstances dictate. You will be given written notice if the course requirements need to be changed.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Student Academic Conduct Policy

As a community of students and scholars, the University strives to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All members of the community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in academic work.

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty and must be avoided. Plagiarism is using somebody else's ideas in your writing without correctly identifying such sources. As one resource for helping students avoid plagiarism, your written work in this class may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar detection service, or require you to do so, for an evaluation of originality and proper use and attribution of sources. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in a restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism in such documents. As part of this process, you may be required to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your writing. You agree that by taking this course all assignments are subject to submission for originality review. The University of South Alabama's policy regarding Student Academic Conduct Policy is found in *The Lowdown* (http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/).

Statement on Generative Artificial Intelligence for Student Usage in Academic Coursework

As the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) technology rapidly evolves, its responsible and ethical integration into higher education is crucial to prepare students for a world where AI tools in the workplace are increasingly prevalent.

It is important that students understand in which instances GenAI is approved for use and situations where it is not allowed. Course specific GenAI allowances will be included in all course syllabi. It is the student's responsibility to fully understand when GenAI can be used in assigned coursework. If at any point a student is unsure about the permissible use of GenAI for a particular assignment or task, they must seek clarification from their instructor *prior* to using it for any coursework.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor for a specific course or assignment, students should assume the following general guidelines apply:

- **Allowed Uses (with proper attribution where applicable):**
    - **Brainstorming and Idea Generation:** Using GenAI to explore topics, generate initial ideas, or refine research questions.
    - **Summarization (of student's own work or publicly available, cited sources):** Condensing information for personal study or to aid in understanding.
    - **Learning and Exploration:** Using GenAI as a study aid to understand complex concepts, generate practice problems, or explore different perspectives (not for graded assessments unless specified).

  - **Translating Content:** Translating publicly available content to or from English.

- **Prohibited Uses (unless explicitly permitted by the instructor):**
  - **Submitting AI-generated content as one's own original work:** This includes essays, reports, code, images, or any other graded assignment.
  - **Using GenAI to complete assignments without independent thought or effort:** This includes generating entire paragraphs, sections, or full drafts of written assignments.
  - **Using GenAI to gain an unfair advantage or circumvent academic integrity policies.**
  - **Generating false, misleading, or plagiarized content**: Even when GenAI tools are authorized for use, students are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the content and that that content is not plagiarized.
  - **Using GenAI for oral speaking assessments, where your speaking skills are being assessed.**
  - **Using GenAI tools to attend online/hybrid courses where attendance is required.**

These student guidelines are a subset of University policy on *Generative Artificial Intelligence Usage for Faculty and Student Use in Academic Coursework*, which can be found at https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/academicaffairs/resources/genaistudentusepolicy.pdf

Students with Disabilities

If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor/professor and provide certification from the Center for Educational Accessibility & Disability Resources (CEADR), which is located Educational Services Building, (251-460-7212).

Mental Health

USA recognizes that students sometimes experience challenges that make learning difficult. If you find that life stressors such as anxiety, depression, relationship problems, difficulty concentrating, alcohol/drug problems, or other stressful experiences are interfering with your academic or personal success, please consider contacting the University Counseling and Wellness Center. The University Counseling and Wellness Center provides a variety of free and confidential services for students. For further information regarding this resource go to http://www.southalabama.edu/counseling or call the office at (251) 460-7051.

USAOnline

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Course material will be available at USAOnline (Canvas). You are required to login to USAOnline to access the material. You can access the syllabus, handouts, additional instructions, readings, and the grade book on this site.

Operational Disruptions

Events outside of the control of the University, such as natural disasters, may cause a disruption to the formal in class setting however every effort will be made to continue with class activities via USA Online during such times of crisis. Please become familiar with the USA website for special announcements and or procedures to be followed during such events. You can find the USA Emergency and Weather Hotline information at http://www.southalabama.edu/emergency.html or call (251) 460-6999.

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