Educational Differences in the American Classroom

What to expect and how to succeed as an international student at UMSL

ERIKA FECKOVA
Graduate student
Educational Differences

1. Class selection
2. Resources
3. Attendance
4. Assignments
5. Interaction
6. Assistance
7. Academic integrity
Class selection

- Options
- Advising
- Student’s responsibility
- Switch sessions/ Drop a class
Resources

➢ MyGateway

➢ Syllabus

KEEP CALM AND READ THE SYLLABUS
Attendance

 ➢ Not OK to skip class

Why isn't "too tired" a valid excuse to skip class and stay in bed all day?

➢ Be on time

Punctuality Seminar
3 PM Sharp
Assignments

➢ Deadlines

➢ Readings
Interaction

➢ Professors
  • OK to disagree
  • Express opinions
  • Ask if you don’t understand
  • Eye contact
  • Office hours

➢ Classmates
  • Make American friends
  • Personal space
  • Language barrier
Assistance

- Writing Lab
- Tutoring

- Academic coaching
- Reference librarians
Academic Integrity

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
Last semester Ben took an ecology class and one of the papers he wrote was about the effects of DDT on bald eagles. This semester he is taking a wildlife biology class and realizes that his paper from last semester would work for one of the assignments for this semester too.

Is it academic dishonesty for Ben to turn the same paper in twice?
Addison spends a lot of time on her final project—a portfolio of works of art that she selects, writes a brief background about the artist, and then describes what she feels about the piece. She is careful to make sure all her information about the artists is correct, and reads several essays on the artists she has chosen. She agrees with most of what the essayists have to say regarding the pieces. She represents some of their thoughts in her project as her own, reasoning that since it is not fact, and instead intangible opinion, and because she agrees with them, then she is not plagiarizing.

*Is she right or wrong?*
Alyssa and Miguel are assigned to work on several group assignments together in a history class this semester. Now they are taking a test and some of the questions cover the research Alyssa did. Miguel cannot remember the answers. He reasons that because the two of them had worked on the project together and got a good grade, it shouldn’t be a problem to ask Alyssa for answers. Since they sit near each other in class, Miguel asks Alyssa to tell him the answers. Alyssa does not want to offend her friend, so she moves her arm so Miguel can see her paper.

Is this plagiarism or academic dishonesty? Are both of them at fault? Is Miguel more so than Alyssa?
Questions?