Important Definitions

Academic Integrity
The Center for Academic Integrity (an American organization) defines academic integrity as “a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.” These values should be promoted within academic communities.

International Center for Academic Integrity: academicintegrity.org.

Common Knowledge
Academic Integrity at Princeton defines common knowledge as “a fact of a piece of information that is generally known and accepted”. Information in dictionaries and encyclopedia which would then appear in many other sources need not be cited, unless exact work are quoted.

Copyright
The exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish and sell a literary, musical or artistic work.

Intellectual Property
The ownership of ideas and control of their use. Use of others’ intellectual property may require payment or permission at times and always includes credit to the source. Note: your lectures, assignments, exams, etc. are your intellectual property and students are not permitted to repost them publically in any form without your permission. Also see: http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/research/r30-03.html

Intentional Plagiarism
Deliberate copying of someone else’s writing without giving credit providing a proper citation.

Paraphrase
A restatement of text, giving the meaning in another form.

Plagiarism
The unauthorized use of the language and thoughts of another author and representing them as your own.

Unintentional Plagiarism
Failing to give credit to another person’s words and language without knowledge of doing so. Unintentional plagiarism often occurs when a student does not have a solid understanding of using citation styles or has sloppy note-taking skills.