## About the TurnItIn Software

Starting in Spring 2015, assignments submitted via bCourses can be run through the TurnItIn program.  TurnItIn is software developed by turnitin.com and sold to universities worldwide.

The Turnitin software will compare your submission against just about everything ever written anywhere, anytime.  It compares your work with published sources as well as with papers submitted at UCB or at any other school that uses Turnitin.

We will set up bCourses so that you can see your turnitin "score" after you submit your paper. Scores range from 0 to 100.  A score of 0 means there is nothing in your paper that is found elsewhere. That's uncommon.  Even though I am writing this memo from scratch, I bet it won't have a Turnitin score of 0.  A score of 100 means your paper is identical to another paper.  That is possible.  Most papers receive a score somewhere in between.

Your score will be color-coded.  Green means "double check but you're probably ok."  Red means "you're in deep doo-doo."  Yellow and orange are somewhere in between.

We have set up an assignment on bCourses called "Fake Assignment."  This is where you can play around with the Turnitin software and get the hang of it.  Submit anything you like and look at the score. Submit again and look at that score.  See how it works.  We encourage everyone to take advantage of "fake assignment" early in the term.

Once you submit a few assignments, you'll get the hang of it.  If you forget to put something in quotation marks " ", turnitin will flag that.  That's because when you quote someone or some article, you have to put your quote in quotation marks.  You also need to provide a citation.

If you paraphrase something from the web, turnitin is likely to flag that.  You need to give credit to the original source.  Once you do turnitin will still indicate the material is taken from another source, but you have given proper credit so you aren't plagiarizing.  You're good.

You cannot submit a paper that you wrote for another assignment or another class.  Your paper will be red flagged if the paper yours is identical to is the same paper submitted to a different class – you can only submit one paper in one class; you can't use the same paper to satisfy assignments in two different classes, even if your professors happen to write nearly identical assignments.

The goal of the Turnitin software is to help you identify where you need to do a better job of citing sources.  The hope is that we wind up with no plagiarized final-submissions of papers.  You will have the same information we do and will be able to revise an earlier submission if you haven't done a sufficient job of citing your sources.

Again, take advantage of "fake assignment" in the Econ 100B site of bcourses.  After you play around with it, post any questions you have to Piazza so that everyone can learn together how this software works.