

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA POLICY ON COPYRIGHT AND THE USE OF MATERIALS FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

## I. Policy Summary

It is the policy of the University to encourage the wide dissemination of information and knowledge for its teaching, research, and public service mission, while also complying with copyright law.

## II. Policy Text

In the course of their duties, faculty and staff of the University of California may wish to use materials ~~authored where the copyright is held~~ by others. Such “uses” might include compiling a course reader, display of visual images, [\[and other widespread use examples\]](#). The University encourages the appropriate use of copyrighted material within the restrictions and permissions of the United States Copyright Law. 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.

Copyright is a property right guaranteed in the United States Constitution to “promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts” by granting to writers, artists, musicians, and other content creators certain exclusive rights with respect to their work, including the right to reproduce, modify, distribute, perform, display, and publicly perform their work in all media. Because this right is exclusive, content creators may prohibit others from using their work without permission. The University strongly believes that the right of content creators to control the use of their work is vital in maintaining a free flow of ideas in our society.

However, United States Copyright Law also permits the public a limited right to reproduce, modify, distribute, perform, display, and publicly perform works created by others, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research, among others. 17 U.S.C. § 107. This right is known as Fair Use. The University strongly believes that fair use of copyrighted works to further disseminate knowledge is paramount for the promotion of academic freedom, creative expression, education and instruction, and ultimately, the full participation by all members of society in the marketplace of ideas.

The University has a societal obligation to promote the wide dissemination of information and knowledge to and among its students and faculty, as well as the public at large, as part of its overall educational and research mission. We encourage both respect for the copyrights of content creators as well as the thoughtful invocation of fair use principles by content consumers within the bounds set forth in the copyright law to support those goals.

The question of whether or not a particular use of copyrighted content constitutes fair use depends on the specific situation, and it is outside the purview of this policy statement to advise on which uses are permissible and which are not. We have provided general advice at [\[the copyright website\]](#), and encourage all members of the University community to contact your campus counsel office or the Office of General Counsel when further advice may be needed.