

CSE 303: Concepts and Tools for Software Development

Academic Integrity and Collaboration Policy

Spring 2005

You are responsible for understanding every word in this document.

- **Motivation:** A course in which students do not accurately present what they know and what work they have done is worse than having no course at all. Your instructor and your fellow students expect and deserve a basic respect for the integrity of this course and an environment where we can all focus on learning. Therefore, this document establishes a clear understanding of what we all will do with the expectation that it will never be an explicit issue.
- **Bottom Line:** If you are ever unclear about how to represent what work you have done, (a) ask and (b) describe clearly what you have done. If you do, the worst that will happen is you will lose some credit on an assignment. This is much better than the alternative.

If you are at all in doubt about whether your collaboration was appropriate, include a description of your collaboration with your homework submission.

- **Collaboration:** You are encouraged to discuss the material in this course, including homework problems. But you must produce your own homework solutions and you must not look at other students' solutions or other information that takes away the intellectual challenge of the homework.

A wonderful way to keep on the right side of the fine line of collaboration versus cheating is to follow the **Gilligan's Island Guideline**, used in several courses in the department:

- When discussing homework, use scratch paper, temporary files, etc., but do not keep any record (paper or electronic) from the discussion.
- Then engage in at least 30 minutes of mind-numbing activity (such as watching an episode of the classic show Gilligan's Island).
- Then work on the homework by yourself.