

CSE341: Programming Languages

Academic Integrity and Collaboration Policy

Spring 2016

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 with the expectation that it will never be an issue.
- **Bottom Line:** While we want you to learn from your fellow students and discuss the course material, the work you complete must be your own. 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.
- **Collaboration Policies:** 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.

Unless specifically told otherwise, you are to complete assignments *individually*. You may discuss assignments in general terms with other students including a discussion of how to approach a problem, but the code you write must be your own. The intent is to allow you to get some help when you are stuck, but this help should be limited and should never involve details of how to code a solution. You may not have another person (current student, former student, tutor, friend, anyone) “walk you through” how to solve an assignment.

Copying someone else's homework or receiving unfair help completing your assignment is cheating (see below), as is copying the homework from another source (the web, other classes, previous course offerings, etc.).

- **Cheating:** Cheating is a very serious offense. If you are caught cheating, you can expect a failing grade and initiation of a cheating case in the University system. Cheating is an insult to your colleagues, to the instructors, to the department and major program, and most importantly, to you. If you feel that you are having a problem with the material, or do not have time to finish an assignment, or have any number of other reasons to cheat, then talk with the instructor. Copying others' work is not the solution.

To avoid creating situations where copying can arise, never e-mail or post your solution files. When using the class discussion board, do not post code that is an attempt to solve a homework problem. If in doubt about what might constitute cheating, send the instructor email describing the situation.

- **Online Solutions:** Solutions to some of our homework problems are probably, unfortunately, be online. Of course, you should not look at such solutions. You are further encouraged to bring them to the attention of the course staff. In general, the course website should have the links you need to complete the assignments. Beyond that, you are allowed to search the web to learn more about the course material, but not to reduce the core intellectual challenge of an assignment. If the difference between the two is not clear, then ask. When in doubt, do not click on the result of a web search that looks like a homework solution. Do not web-search for terms specific to our homework problems, like the name of the function we ask you to write.