Northeastern University Khoury College of Computer Sciences

The cs3200 Honor Code

The purpose of this honor code is to make our expectations as clear as possible regarding academic conduct on "assignments" (which is general term for homeworks, projects and exams). The basic principle under which we operate is that <u>each of you is expected to submit your own</u> <u>work in this course</u>. In particular, attempting to take credit for someone else's work by turning it in as your own constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious violation of basic academic standards.

Assignments in this course may be completed individually or in groups, depending on the assignment. All of the following text refers to "you" and "your work," meaning your individual work if you are working alone on an assignment or your group's combined work if you are working in a group. Only if you are working with a Canvas-assigned partner, any discussion and sharing of work with that specific partner is allowed on that assignment.

Under our Honor Code you are obligated to follow each of the following 3 rules in this course:

Rule 1: You must not look at assignment solutions that are not your own

It is an act of plagiarism to take work that is copied or derived from the work of others and submitted as your own. For example, using a solution from the Internet, a solution from another student (past or present), a solution taken from an answer set released in past semesters, or some other source, in part or in whole, that is not your own work is a violation of the Honor Code. The best way to steer clear of this possibility is simply to <u>not search for solutions to the assignments</u>. Moreover, looking at someone else's solution (except from Canvas-assigned groups) in order to determine how to solve the problem yourself is also an infraction of the Honor Code. In essence, you should not be looking at someone else's answers in order to solve the problems in this class. This is not an appropriate way to "check your work," "get a hint," or "see alternative approaches" (except within your Canvas-assigned groups).

Rule 2: You must not share your solutions with other students.

In particular, you should not ask anyone to give you a copy of their answers or, conversely, give your answers to another student who asks you for it (unless you're working in a group assignment, of course). Similarly, you should not discuss your solution strategies to such an extent that you and your collaborators end up turning in the exact same answers (unless you are working on a group project, or share within your Canvas assigned homework group). Moreover, you are expected to take reasonable measures to maintain the privacy of your

<u>solutions</u>. For example, you should not leave copies of your work on public computers nor post your solutions on a public website.

Rule 3: Canvas-assigned homework groups: Discuss as much as needed, but write up your answers on your own.

For homeworks, you may be randomly assigned (or self-assign to) a homework-specific group on Canvas. You are allowed and *actually encouraged to exchange ideas and discuss alternative approaches* within those "study groups", whose composition may change from assignment to assignment. Within this group only (and no other people), full sharing of solutions is allowed. I recommend you genuinely attempt to solve the problem by yourself before you meet. If you are really stuck on a particular problem, you could ask your colleagues by first describing what you already tried: "I have already tried A and B, but it give me C. I was expecting D. What am I missing?" In turn, you can direct your colleagues to give helpful hints to your study group colleagues like "Remember we saw in class the query E. There we used a trick to do F. Have you tried something similar?" Thus I highly encourage you to discuss and compare ideas and strategies, but you should still to *write your solutions on your own*, as indicated in Rule 1. Discuss ideas together but write your answers up on your own.

A Final Note on the intent of this Honor Code.

We have no desire to create a climate in which students feel as if they are under suspicion. We all can benefit from working in an atmosphere of mutual trust and exchange of ideas. Students who deliberately take advantage of that trust, however, poison that atmosphere for everyone.

In computer science courses, it is usually appropriate to ask the TAs and the instructor for hints on how to approach the problem sets, or about general problem-solving strategies. In fact, we *strongly encourage you to seek such assistance from TAs and instructor when you need it*.

I (print your name) _____

 \Box yes \Box no have read this honor code and will abide with its three rules for assignments (i.e., homework, projects and exams) during the course of this class.

Signature & Date___