

Summary of CS 15 Collaboration Policy Fall 2019

Summary of Policy

CS15 is intended to provide a rigorous (and fun!) introduction to the field of computer science with an emphasis on learning Object-Oriented programming using Java and 2D graphics. Grades in CS15 are entirely based on projects, sections, attendance, and homework – there are no exams or quizzes, and there is no curving of grades. Thus, it is imperative for us to be sure that your work is entirely your own. This document summarizes what is and what is not acceptable collaboration for CS15. For more details and examples regarding the specific aspects of this policy, please read the Collaboration Policy very carefully, since we strictly enforce this policy. Because of TA alertness and a software package called MOSS (Measures of Software Similarity), illegal collaboration is easily detected in CS15. Claiming ignorance of the collaboration policy is not a valid excuse for violating it. For any questions, please reach out to an HTA.

Acceptable Forms of Collaboration

You may discuss lecture material, general concept questions, syntax questions freely, so long as these concepts are not discussed in the context of any project. Additionally, you may discuss with other students questions that are on the mini-assignments. Discussing any material (lectures, Javadocs, etc.) on or linked to from the course website is acceptable. The official Java resources, including the Javadocs and the Java tutorials hosted on Oracle's website, may be used as well. Sections and Conceptual Hours operate with "supervised collaboration", i.e., they are fully collaborative since TAs are present to ensure that all conversations, group work, discussion, etc., fall within the bounds of the collaboration policy. Outside of section and Conceptual Hours, however, any and all discussion or collaboration regarding project design (including topics covered during discussions in section) is prohibited, with the exception of questions on the mini-assignment at a conceptual (non-coding) level. You may discuss only the takeaway notes provided by the TAs (and no others) - these fall under the same category as lecture slides.

Unacceptable Forms of Collaboration

You are never allowed to discuss any aspect of a project or homework including but not limited to implementation details, perceived difficulty level of the assignment, general programming approach, etc, with anyone other than the current course staff, including questions that are on the mini-assignment but involve coding (such as pseudocode for a method). You are never allowed to look at another student's code from this or previous years, or share code with another student. If another student uses your code, you are both in violation of the collaboration policy. You may never copy code or written homework solutions from an outside source such as an online forum, and you may not post any CS15 material on any such site.

Piazza

We ask that all Piazza questions be posted privately, leaving it at the TAs discretion to make it public if it is appropriate and valuable for the rest of the class to view.

Regret Policy

If you violate the collaboration policy but bring it to the attention of the HTAs within 72 hours of the submission of the project during which the violation occurred, you will only face internal course sanctions (including but not limited to NCing the assignment) and CS15 will not refer your case to Brown's Standing Committee on the Academic Code. Please note that this is a one time option and repeated violations will still be brought to a Dean.