CSCI 305 Participation Event 5

Due Date: April 2, 2018 @ End of Class

Group Members: _____

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Exercise 1

Suppose two reference variables `x` and `y` have the declared types `R` and `S` like this:

```
R x;
S y;
```

When the types guarantee that this is safe (i.e., when `S` is a subtype of `R`), Java will allow the assignment `x = y`. When neither of these conditions holds, the assignment might or might not be possible at runtime, and Java will permit it only with an explicit type case, `x = (R) y`. (This kind of type cast is called a *downcast*) With this explicit type cast, the Java language system performs a runtime check to make sure the exact class of y at runtime is in the type `R`.

Suppose the following Java declarations:

```
class C1 implements I1 {
}
class C2 extends C1 implements I2 {
}
class C3 implements I1 {
}
```

where `I1` and `I2` are two unrelated interfaces neither extending the other, and suppose a variable of each type:

```
C1 c1;
C2 c2;
```

```
C3 c3;
I1 i1;
I2 i2;
```

For each possible assignment of one of these five variables to another, say whether Java allows it, disallows it, or allows it only with a downcast, and explain why. (*Hint:* An assignment of `c1` to `i2` is allowed with a downcast, even though the class `C1` clearly does not implement interface `I2`. Think carefully about why.)

Exercise 2

Suppose a derived class `C2` defines a method `m` of type `A2->B2` that overrides a method `m` of type `A1->B1`, inherited from the base class `C1`. Different languages have very different rules about how the types `A1` and `A2`, and `B1` and `B2`, must be related. Investigate and report on this aspect of inheritance, citing the sources you used. Answer the following questions:

- Explain how this works in Java

- What is the rule called *covariance*? Give an example of a language that uses the covariant rule. Explain the advantage of this rule.

- What is the rule called *contravariance*? Give an example of a language that uses the contravariant rule. Explain the advantage of this rule.