CS2030 Programming Methodology II
Semester 1 2023/2024

13 & 14 September 2023
Problem Set #3
Inheritance and Polymorphism

1. Study the following `Circle` class.

```
class Circle {
    private final int radius;

    Circle(int radius) {
        this.radius = radius;
    }

    @Override
    public String toString() {
        return "Circle with radius " + this.radius;
    }
}
```

We have seen how the `toString` method can be defined in the `Circle` class that overrides the same method in its parent `java.lang.Object` class. There is another `equals(Object obj)` method defined in the `Object` class which returns `true` only if the object from which `equals` is called, and the argument object is the same.

https://docs.oracle.com/en/java/javase/17/docs/api/java.base/java/lang/Object.html#equals(java.lang.Object)

```
jshell> Circle c = new Circle(10)
c ==> Circle with radius 10

jshell> c.equals(c)
$.. ==> true

jshell> c.equals("10")
$.. ==> false

jshell> c.equals(new Circle(10))
$.. ==> false
```

In particular for the latter test, since both `c` and `new Circle(10)` have radius of 10 units, we would like the `equals` method to return `true` instead.

(a) We define an overloaded method `equals(Circle other)` in the `Circle` class:

```
boolean equals(Circle circle) {
    System.out.println("Running equals(Circle) method");
    return circle.radius == radius;
}
```

such that

```
jshell> new Circle(10).equals(new Circle(10))
Running equals(Circle) method
$.. ==> true

jshell> new Circle(10).equals("10")
$.. ==> false
```

Why is the outcome of the following test `false`?

```
jshell> Object obj = new Circle(10)
obj ==> Circle with radius 10

jshell> obj.equals(new Circle(10))
$.. ==> false
```

(b) Instead of an overloaded method, we now define an overriding method.

```
@Override
public boolean equals(Object obj) {
    System.out.println("Running equals(Object) method");
    if (obj == this) { // trivially true since it's the same object
        return true;
    } else if (obj instanceof Circle circle) { // is obj a Circle?
        return circle.radius == this.radius;
    } else {
        return false;
    }
}
```

Why does the same test case in question 1a now produce the correct expected outcome?

```
jshell> Object obj = new Circle(10)
obj ==> Circle with radius 10

jshell> obj.equals(new Circle(10))
Running equals(Object) method
$.. ==> true
```

(c) With both the overloaded and overriding `equals` method in questions 1a and 1b defined, given the following program fragment,

```
Circle c1 = new Circle(10);
Circle c2 = new Circle(10);
Object o1 = c1;
Object o2 = c2;
```

what is the output of the following statements?

(a) `o1.equals(o2);`   (d) `c1.equals(o2);`

(b) `o1.equals(c2);`   (e) `c1.equals(c2);`

(c) `o1.equals(c1);`   (f) `c1.equals(o1);`

2. Suppose Java allows a class to inherit from multiple parent classes. Give a concrete example why this could be problematic. Why does Java allow classes to implement multiple interfaces then?

3. Consider the following program.

```
class A {
    protected final int x;

    A(int x) {
        this.x = x;
    }

    A method() {
        return new A(x);
    }
}

class B extends A {
    B(int x) {
        super(x);
    }

    @Override
    B method() {
        return new B(x);
    }
}
```

Does it compile? What happens if we swap the entire definitions of `method()` between class `A` and class `B`? Does it compile now? Give reasons for your observations.

4. Which of the following program fragments will result in a compilation error?

(a) ```
class A1 {
    void f(int x) {}
    void f(boolean y) {}
}
```

(b) ```
class A2 {
    void f(int x) {}
    void f(int y) {}
}
```

(c) ```
class A3 {
    private void f(int x) {}
    void f(int y) {}
}
```

(d) ```
class A4 {
    int f(int x) {
        return x;
    }
    void f(int y) {}
}
```

(e) ```
class A5 {
    void f(int x, String s) {}
    void f(String s, int y) {}
}
```