

Subj: SY201 COLLABORATION POLICY

Purpose. Learning is enhanced through activities and some of your best work will come through working with others, but it's important to know what constitutes appropriate collaboration. Simply copying another's work (regardless of the source) is never considered collaboration.

This policy defines how and when you may collaborate in SY201. While the Brigade Honor Policy provides a broad framework for honorable behavior, this supplement provides specific details for this class. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

The following definitions apply:

- *discuss* (v): To communicate verbally about a concept or topic. Discuss does not include communicating about a specific solution to a problem.
- *collaborate* (v): To split up an assignment into parts in a manner where individuals work on separate parts independently, or working on a portion of an assignment cooperatively.
- *copy* (v): To reproduce via electronic or non-electronic means the work of another individual; or to knowingly allow your work to be copied via electronic or non-electronic means.

I will indicate when different types of collaboration are appropriate, based on the assignment or activity. There are four broad categories of collaboration and each subsequent category includes all the categories before it:

- A. *None*: No discussion/collaboration is allowed except with your instructor (and usually MGSP – though I will point out exceptions to this, when appropriate).
- B. *Group*: No discussion/collaboration is allowed outside of specific group of students.
- C. *Course*: No discussion/collaboration is allowed outside the course.
- D. *All*: You may discuss or collaborate with anyone.

The use of properly cited resources is allowed, though be very careful about simply copying information from sources you find on the internet. For example: *Stack Exchange is a network of question-and-answer websites on topics in varied fields, each site covering a specific topic, where questions, answers, and users are subject to a reputation award process*¹. It is a very useful resource, but can be misleading or confusing for students learning a new computing topic. Please consult with me if you have any questions about a resource you find.

¹ From Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stack_Exchange