Collaboration Policy and Registration Form

Introduction to Computer Graphics, Fall 2021

1 Collaboration Policy

Since CSCI 1230 has no examinations, your grade is based solely on your homework, labs, and programs, and participation. To evaluate you in the course, we must be sure that your assignments are your own work. This policy adheres to Brown's academic code: *"Academic achievement is evaluated on the basis of work that a student produces independently. A student who obtains credit for work, words, or ideas that are not the products of his or her own effort is dishonest and in violation of Brown's Academic Code."*

For every assignment you should do your own thinking, designing, coding, and debugging. Under no circumstances should you let yourself be led by another student or receive an amount of help which makes an assignment easier to implement, or copy another student's work with or without their knowledge. Conversely, you should never assist another student in a manner that would provide any details as to how an assignment can or should be implemented. "Just helping a friend" is a violation of this policy except for the things permitted in section 1.1. *It really doesn't matter whether someone gets the answers from a friend, an enemy, or a random website: it's all cheating.* And *providing* answers is just as serious an offence as accepting them.

We strictly enforce this policy. Every submitted solution will be personally inspected by TAs and run through sophisticated code similarity software (MOSS) specifically designed to catch instances of cheating. All violations of this collaboration policy will be discovered and brought to Brown's Academic Code Committee.

1.1 Permitted Collaboration

The following forms of collaboration are allowed (even encouraged) and are not considered collaboration policy violations.

1. **A team final project.**
   Details will be provided when final projects are discussed in November.
2. **Discussing the "algorithm" assignments before each project.**
   If you choose to discuss an algorithm assignment with another student you must retain **no** notes/photos/records from the discussion. And then, *only after all such records are gone*, should you write up the solution on your own. Furthermore, you must **write the logins of the student(s) you collaborated with** next to each problem. Your handin should contain only your own work. If you're not sure what this means, consider answering a question like this: "If I changed line 3 of this code to have 2*i instead of i, what would your output look like? Would the code still compile? Would there be new error-cases to check for?" If you can't answer that kind of question, then the code isn't really *yours*. The same goes for formulas you derive.
3. **Discussing solutions to labs.**
   Labs are meant to give you hands-on experience with material covered in class, and you are encouraged to work together with others and help each other debug them.
4. **Discussing material covered in lectures or the textbook.**
   Example: "What are the different transformation matrices that were covered in lecture last week?"
5. **Discussing the requirements of an assignment.**
6. **Asking general knowledge questions about syntax and C++.**
   Examples: "How do I make something public? How do I set up debugging in Qt Creator?"
7. **Discussing general techniques of designing, coding, or debugging, or using particular software tools**
   Examples: "When I get a segmentation fault, can you show me how to use gdb to find the line where the program crashed?" or "How do I download just one file from a project on github?"
8. **Exchanging render results, scene files, and other test data.**
   These exchanges are OK, but must be documented. Example: "I exchanged {sample renders, scene files} with lcohen2."

There is no penalty for permissible collaboration with another student, as long as you clearly document the students

with whom you collaborate, as noted above.

1.2 Prohibited collaboration

The following things are **not** allowed under any circumstances.

1. **Discussing project design or code.**
   Projects are meant to be done entirely on your own, with the sole exception of the final project.
   a. **Copying project code or test cases.**
      You should not be writing down or otherwise obtaining anyone else's project code (including code from the internet), or allowing anyone else to write down or obtain your code. Remember, we have software designed explicitly to look for undue similarity of code and we check all submitted programs with it.
   b. **Discussing project pseudocode.**
      Pseudocode in CSCI 1230 is your own, and not to be shared with others. If you've gotten beyond discussing the solutions to the algo, you're ready to work on your own.
   c. **Discussing project code.**
      Project code must be written entirely on your own. Even discussing support code can lead into implementation details, so absolutely no discussion is allowed. If you can't figure out how the support code works, talk with someone on the course staff.
2. **Debugging a project with another person.**
   Sitting at the same computer with someone else and trying to fix a bug is not allowed (and the same applies to shared work over the internet via tools like Zoom or shared desktops).. Describing your problem to someone and asking for advice on debugging techniques (e.g. "How can I debug segfaults using Qt Creator?") is okay as long as the advice is **completely unrelated** to the project.
3. **Asking for help on something you haven't thought about yourself.**
   Always make every attempt to tackle a problem yourself before asking another student or a TA. It will help you become a better programmer, as well as a better student.
4. **Having incorrect file permissions/being careless with your source files.**
   We require that all students maintain appropriate permissions on their coursework. Other students should not be able to access, view, or copy your files or work in any way. If you don't know how to do this, ask a Sun Lab consultant or see a TA. **This also includes having your code publicly available on GitHub or other online code repositories. If another student copies your work, you will be held accountable for negligence and be referred to Brown's Academic Code Committee.**
5. **Using previously published solutions or otherwise found course material.**
   Students retaking the course may have access to course materials and solutions published the year prior. You may not use any assignment materials (solutions or otherwise) that were not published on the course website before the assignment was due. Students may not consult their own solutions from the previous year when completing the current year's work.

You should do your own problem solving, do your own program design and decomposition, and design your own algorithms and data structures. If you are discussing what algorithms or functions you wrote to solve a problem (except during the "algo" portion of the assignment), or describing header files or specific lines of code, then you are breaking the Collaboration Policy.

1.3 Conclusion

We believe that this policy is explicit enough to guide your judgment and that we have not left you much gray area. If you are ever in doubt about the legality of your actions, be sure to talk with a TA, even after the event has already occurred. When we confront a student with a case of suspected violation, an answer of "I didn't know that this is wrong" will not let you off the hook. Brown's academic code is very specific on this. Suspected cases of disallowed collaboration will be referred to the Academic Code Committee and typically result in a "directed NC with transcript notation" and parental notification for the first offense, suspension on a second.

Again, note that you are expected always to initially approach a problem on your own, and put in serious effort to find a solution. You are honor-bound to preserve your independence of thought. Remember that the course staff and lecture slides should always be your first resource when you have a question or problem.

2 Registration (which is HW0)

If, having read this collaboration policy, you still want to take CSCI 1230, you will fill out the following Google Form: https://forms.gle/2U3dxAuv1a8meek28. **This form includes the setup instructions for the course, with the collaboration policy registration at the end — give yourself ample time to complete this.**

Please complete this form by Monday, September 13th.

Section 5 includes writing your own summary of the collaboration policy. If your explanation of the collaboration policy is unclear or erroneous, we'll ask you to resubmit. You must submit an accepted version of this homework to pass the course. Until that's done, we won't grade any other work you submit.