Homework #0 – Grading Policy
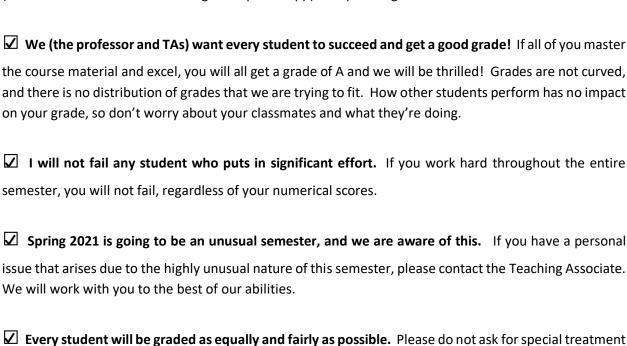
Due Sunday, January 24 at 5:00pm

10 points

Submit PDF in Gradescope

Because this is a large class and because I strive to treat everyone as fairly and consistently as possible, we need to have clear, consistent, and objective rules for handling grading. The professor and the TAs cannot possibly handle each of your cases individually in a way that is fair to all; we must have a single policy that applies to all students. I want to make sure that everyone understands this policy and its implications, so that there is no confusion later. Please read <u>all</u> parts of this assignment very carefully.

Instructions: Please check every box below and then sign at the bottom. Please scan the signed document (either use a scanner or a scanning smartphone app) for uploading.

☑ **We (the professor and TAs) want every student to succeed and get a good grade!** If all of you master the course material and excel, you will all get a grade of A and we will be thrilled! Grades are not curved, and there is no distribution of grades that we are trying to fit. How other students perform has no impact on your grade, so don't worry about your classmates and what they're doing.

☑ **I will not fail any student who puts in significant effort.** If you work hard throughout the entire semester, you will not fail, regardless of your numerical scores.

☑ **Spring 2021 is going to be an unusual semester, and we are aware of this.** If you have a personal issue that arises due to the highly unusual nature of this semester, please contact the Teaching Associate. We will work with you to the best of our abilities.

☑ **Every student will be graded as equally and fairly as possible.** Please do not ask for special treatment (e.g., special extra credit, different grading criteria, different deadlines, etc.).

☑ **You will be graded based strictly on what you submit and when you submit it**. You will NOT be graded based on what you meant to submit, the other version of the file that you should've submitted, etc. An assignment that is just one minute late is still late. We will not examine timestamps on your files to determine whether you had indeed done the work on time despite not submitting it on time. Gradescope lets you submit the same file before and after the regular deadline – we will only grade the most recently submitted file, even if this results in a lower score. If you resubmit a new version of the assignment after the deadline, that is the submission that will be graded and it will have the corresponding late penalty.

If you haven't uploaded anything to Gradescope, <u>for whatever reason</u>, you will get a zero; PLEASE check your uploads!

If you are having technical trouble with Gradescope and you are close to the deadline, you may email your assignment to your recitation UTAs before the deadline.

☑ **There are no extensions on assignments except for STINFs and dean's excuses.** I will give enough time on every assignment such that you can overcome other issues, such as being busy with other classes, interviews, etc. I know you're busy with other classes and activities, and I intentionally give you far more time for assignments than is strictly necessary, so that you can manage your time. If something *truly extraordinary* happens that is not covered by either a STINF or a dean's excuse, please contact the Teaching Associate (Ms. Yesenia Velasco).

☑ **Assignments are graded strictly based on rubrics and grading test cases.** There are too many students for the TAs to go through every submission and try to figure out how close it is to working. Even if that were possible, it would be impossible to do this fairly; TAs would spend different amounts of time, effort, and skill. For example, if your code is missing a single semicolon and doesn't compile, it will get a very low score regardless of what might have happened if that semicolon hadn't been missing. We will provide you with some tests to help you get started, but these tests will not be as exhaustive as the tests we use for grading. You will need to test your own work beyond using the given tests.

☑ **If you believe your grade on a homework or exam is incorrect, you have 5 days to raise your complaint to the grader.** No complaints after 5 days will be considered, regardless of merit. For homeworks, contact your UTA grader first. If you are still unhappy, then contact a graduate TA. If you are still unhappy after that, contact the professor. For exams, contact a graduate TA first. If you are still unhappy, contact the professor.

For homeworks, the 5 days begins from when grades are released on Sakai. For exams, the 5 days begins from when exams are returned in lecture. (Not attending lecture does not postpone this 5-day window.) Once the 5-day window begins, say on Day X, it ends at 11:59pm on Day X+5.

☑ **Some students will be just below (or just above) a grade cutoff.** With this many students, there is no way to draw lines between grades (say between A and A- or between B and B+) such that nobody is just barely below a line. I cannot round up your score without rounding up everyone else … and once I've rounded up everyone else there will then be other students who are now very, very close to a higher grade. *Please note, though, that grades in this course tend to be high; last time I taught the course, almost half of the class earned an A or A-.*

☑ **A dead or lost or stolen computer is not a valid excuse, nor is a lost or corrupted file.** Duke offers lots of free cloud storage and you should back up your work on it. Some students prefer using github, but please be extremely careful to keep your repository private! If your repository is public, even accidentally, that is considered academic misconduct and will be handled accordingly (see below).

☑ **Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be handled according to the rules of the Office of Student Conduct (OSC).** The professor and TAs monitor submissions for suspected academic misconduct, and the professor will present evidence of misconduct to OSC. Historically, ECE/CS 250 has had at least a half dozen cases of academic misconduct each semester, and penalties have included a faculty/student resolution (with a score of zero on the assignment), a hearing in front of OSC, and suspension from Duke.

☑ **The outcome of academic misconduct will be worse than doing poor work.** If you do a poor job on an assignment, you will still get some partial credit. If you are caught in academic misconduct, you will get a zero on the assignment and you will be reported to OSC, which can have further consequences.

☑ **You may not attempt to ask or hire class TAs for tutoring.** Doing so is a conflict of interest. TAs are instructed to report any such inquiries.

☑ **Midterms and the final exam will be taken during a specified window of time (to accommodate synchronous and asynchronous students) except for illness (STINF) or dean's excuse.** Do not ask for a makeup exam that suits your schedule better.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you understand the grading policy for this class:

Christine Joon

_____   **1/21/21**
_____

(signed name)   (date)