CS 166 Student Agreement

http://cs.brown.edu/courses/cs166

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In addition to Brown University's rules, CS 166 has its own policy on student collaboration. This document explains the CS 166 collaboration policy and student agreement in detail and provides specific examples of allowed and forbidden types of collaboration. We expect you to read carefully and understand this document, and to use good judgment in applying it. Please consult Roberto or the Head TA in case of doubt as to what is allowed or if you have a special situation. Note that you may neither give nor receive prohibited kinds of help. Helping someone cheat is just as bad as cheating for yourself. You should also be aware that your computer account may be monitored and your files and email may be examined as part of the investigation of a suspected violation. *If you violate this policy, you may be subject to disciplinary action by the University.*

In the rest of this document, **CS 166 Staff** means Roberto and the CS 166 Teaching Assistants and **course material** means anything covered in the lectures, the slides, assigned reading material, and help sessions. In general, discussion of the course material with anyone is permitted. The collaboration policy for assignments is different for each type of assignment, as indicated below.

Homeworks: You are allowed to discuss any aspect of homeworks with the CS 166 Staff. You may discuss the course, lectures, and general concepts with other other CS 166 students, and you may also work out homework solutions with them, subject to the exception below. You *may not* write anything down permanently while talking to other students; all solutions must be written on your own with no notes from group discussions. However, you *may* use a whiteboard, chalkboard, notepad, etc. for your discussions if the resource is not used while writing solutions. This is what is known as a "whiteboard" policy. This is to enforce that you thoroughly understand the solutions that you turn in.

To clarify:

- You may dicuss specific homework questions with other students including both the problem and solution, again subject to the exception below.
- While writing up your solutions, you may not consult notes taken during discussion.
- You may not take away any notes written during a discussion after that discussion has ended.
- You may not copy solutions that someone else has written up.

The CS 166 Staff reserves the right to talk to you about the work you hand in, to make sure you fully understand it.

Some examples of situations that are not allowed:

1. You and a friend discuss a homework question on a whiteboard. It would be against the collaboration policy if you remained in front of the whiteboard as you wrote up your solutions to a homework problem.
2. You are working in the hallway, waiting for TA hours. It would be against the collaboration policy if, while writing up your solutions, you discussed your answers with anyone else.

Discussions are a great way to learn from and with your peers. However it is a equally important that discussion be educational, and not simply an easy way to get the answer. You *must* understand the solution you handin. It is for these reasons that we will be enforcing this collaboration policy.

EXCEPTION: The above policy works for most homework problems, but not all. Certain problems are very simple, in that only one key insight is required to solve them, and as soon as the insight is realized, the problem becomes trivial. Collaborative discussion in these cases does more harm than good. Therefore, for the specific homework problems where this issue arises, we will put an indication on the homework handout that *no collaboration is allowed for those questions only*. If you collaborate on homeworks where non-collaborative questions appear, please make sure to exclude those questions from your collaboration.

Exams: There are no exams in CS 166 so there is no collaboration policy for them.

Programming Assignments (including mini-programs): You may discuss programming assignments only with the CS 166 Staff. Discussion of programming assignments with anyone else is forbidden. In particular, the following are examples of forbidden activities:

- Examining another student's code or allowing anyone to examine your code.
- Helping another student to debug code, or getting debugging help from a student or tutor.
- Getting or giving help in coding or pseudocoding tests for a program.
- Working together to write pseudocode.
- Asking another student questions such as "Should I have a parent reference in Program 2?" or "How do I implement 3DES in Program 4?"

The following table summarizes the collaboration policy:

	CS 166 Staff	CS 166 Students	Others
Course material	Yes	Yes	Yes
Homeworks (except as indicated)	Yes	Don't take away notes	No
Homework questions marked as non-collaborative	Yes	No	No
Projects	Yes	No	No

Outside Sources: The CS 166 Staff highly encourages you to use outside sources to further your knowledge and understanding in the course. This includes, but is not limited to, books, journals, and the internet. While the CS 166 Staff encourages use of these sources, plagiarism, in terms of both homework problems and programming assignments, is strictly prohibited. Not only is it a violation of this student agreement, but it is also a direct violation of school policy and will be punished to the fullest extent possible. If you wish to use code or text from an outside source at any point, other than as permitted by the language policy in the course missive, please consult the CS 166 Staff before doing so.

Ethical and Legal Issues: *Some of the techniques covered in this course are unethical and/or illegal to use and apply in contexts beyond the course itself. Breaking into, misusing, or harming computer systems or networks is illegal and punishable by law, if done without the explicit authorization of the owner. There are various legal restrictions applicable to removing DRM protection from copyrighted content, without prior authorization by the copyright owner. Attacking computers at Brown whether owned by Brown or by others, except as specifically assigned in this course, is a violation of Brown's Computer Policy and may lead to disciplinary action.*

By signing this document, you agree to abide by the CS 166 Student Agreement and Collaboration Policy. You must sign this document before we will grade your first assignment.

Please return only this sheet to us. Anyone who returns the first two pages as well will be forced to have an awkward lunch with the HTA. The food will be dry and tasteless, the conversation insipid and maddening, the prices *exorbitant*. And, oh yes, you will pay.

Name _____

CS Login (leave blank if none) _____

Signature _____

Date _____