6.s077 Statement on Collaboration, Honesty, etc.

We encourage working together whenever possible – working out problems in tutorials, discussing and interpreting reading assignments and homework. Talking about the course material is a great way to learn.

Regarding homework, the following is a fruitful (and acceptable) form of collaboration: discuss with your classmates possible approaches to solving the problems, and then have each one work out the details and write her/his solution **independently**. An unacceptable form of dealing with homework is to copy a solution that someone else has written. Furthermore, the forum should not be used to reveal the answers or the steps towards the solution of a problem.

We discourage, but do not forbid, use of materials from prior terms that students may have access to. However, at the time that you are actually writing up your solutions, these materials must have been set aside; copy-editing from a bible is not acceptable.

Regarding written (not online) homework you turn in, we expect you to briefly list all sources of information you used, other than the text, books on reserve for this course, or discussions with 6.s077 staff. A brief note such as "Did homework with John Thompson and Jane Appleby in study group" or "Looked at old bible for Problem 4" would be sufficient.

With such a disclosure, there is no penalty or other downside to the use of sources or collaboration. On the other hand, using such sources without reference is not acceptable.

After a quiz has been returned, we give students a limited amount of time to resubmit their quizzes for regrades if they feel that there is a problem with the grading on their exam. Your new grade can turn out to be higher, lower, or the same as before. (We reserve the right to regrade the entire exam.) If you submit an exam to be regraded, **do not write anything at all on the exam booklet**. Please write a note on a separate sheet of paper. We will reconsider the grade based on the explanation in your note, but TAs are not allowed to discuss the grading with you personally. Any attempt to modify an exam booklet is considered a serious breach of academic honesty. We photocopy a substantial fraction of the exams before they are returned and the probability of catching a change is high.

In general, we expect students to adhere to basic, common sense concepts of academic honesty. Presenting another's work as if it were your own, or cheating in exams will not be tolerated. The appropriate authorities at MIT will be notified in cases of academic dishonesty.

More specific guidelines, geared towards **online problem sets** are as follows:

- Given a problem, it is ok to discuss the general approach to solving the problem.

- You can work jointly to come up with the general steps for the solution.

- It is ok to get a hint, or several hints for that matter, if you get stuck while solving a problem.

- You should work out the details of the solution yourself.

- It is not ok to take someone else's solution and simply copy the answers from their solution into your checkboxes.

- It is not ok to take someone else's formula and plug in your own numbers to get the final answer.

- It is not ok to post answers to homework problems before the submission deadline.

- It is not ok to look at a full step-by-step solution to a problem before the submission deadline.

- It is ok to have someone show you a few steps of a solution where you have been stuck for a while, provided, of course, that you have attempted to solve it yourself without success.

- After you have collaborated with others in generating a correct solution, a good test to see if you were engaged in acceptable collaboration is to make sure that you are able to re-solve the problem on your own.