Final Exercise Procedures

Steven Bogaerts
Last updated: 4/30/2020

Please read this document carefully so that you know the requirements and recommendations for the final exercises of the course.

Will we have a final exam?
Not in the traditional sense, no. I think it will be most beneficial to your learning to instead give you an extended set of exercises.

When will these exercises be assigned, and when will they be due?
They'll be assigned on Thursday 4/30. They'll be due on Thursday 5/14 (the last day of final exams) at 5:00 PM, to be submitted via Moodle.

What will we do in class once the exercises are assigned?
We'll discuss a few remaining topics, considering material that is not included in the exercises.

Once these final exercises are assigned, what may I do, and what must I not do?
These exercises are to be done individually. You may not communicate with anyone (except me) about anything related to computer science: not with your partner, nor anyone else in class, nor any other person. (The exception is our remaining in-class time, discussing only the new ideas considered in that time.)

You may not communicate with other people using any website (e.g. posting on a message board, hiring someone, etc.).

You may not communicate anything about the contents of the exercises with any other person.

Yes, you may use any non-human resource, including your notes, any books, BlueJ (CSC 121), Visual Studio (CSC 122), and existing websites. (But again, you may not communicate with others through websites, as described above.)

If you have questions about what would be allowed, please ask me before you do it.

So I can really use a search engine if I want?
Yes, but it's unlikely to be very helpful.

Again, if you need to use Google (or any search engine or website) more than a little to look up basic concepts, then you will have lots of trouble with the exercises. Please study for the exercises so that you are very confident on such concepts.

I've written questions that cannot be easily looked up online. I know this, because I've tried to look up the answers myself, just to check. So I recommend you don't waste your time searching for answers.

What if I find something helpful online?

Please cite the website, analogous to citing an article as you write an essay in another course. To do this, just write a quick comment in your code that contains the URL.

However, do not simply copy code you don't understand from some website. This would be like writing a paper for a class with long quotes of someone else's work and little integration of your own. This won't earn points. Furthermore, the code probably doesn't accomplish exactly what you need anyway and will lead you astray.

If you use a source but do not cite it, this will be counted as plagiarism.

In short, I recommend you plan on using little or no web searches for the exercises. They are designed such that this is unlikely to be of much help.

Steve, may I ask you questions about the exercises once they are assigned?
Yes. I will be:
more guarded in my answers than I would be for a regular assignment
BUT
more open to answering questions than I would be during a regular test.

Since this is a longer-term task, I do not want you to be hung up on something "small" that's stopping you from making any progress. So if you'd like to talk with me, we can set up a time. For certain questions I may say "I'm sorry, you'll need to wrestle with that on your own", but for others, I may be willing to point you towards certain course experiences that will be helpful.