Honor Code

The Department of Computer Science takes the Honor Code seriously. Violations are easy to identify and will be dealt with promptly.

The Computer Science Honor Code can be found on our website. Since interpretation of how it might apply to this course might be a source of confusion for you, I provide additional detail here.

The types of assignments given in this course are **reading responses**, **program implementations**, an **exam**, and a **final project**. To be as transparent as possible as to how the honor code applies to each assignment type, I describe them below, including examples of permitted and prohibited behaviors. These examples are not exhaustive! If you have any questions about how the honor code might apply in a particular circumstance, please discuss it with me.

Reading Responses. Reading responses are short reflections on a technical topic, usually a research paper. You are allowed to discuss the topic—even at length—with your peers, but all of your work must be your own, original writing. Any quote or empirical fact must be properly attributed to its author or source using a citation.

Program Implementations. The successful completion of a programming assignment involves broadly three steps: program design, program implementation, and responses to "reflection questions," which typically ask you to reflect on some aspect of the assignment. Every individual is responsible for producing their own work. Examples of permitted and prohibited activities for single-author assignments are described here.

Program Design. You are permitted to discuss any aspect of program design with another student. For example, discussing a diagram of a data structure on a whiteboard is acceptable (and encouraged). Discussion of code is permissible only when the code in question is not a solution to a programming problem. For example, it is acceptable to discuss the meaning of a C library function or assembly instruction.

Program Implementation ("code"). Any program submitted by you must be entirely your own work. You may ask other students in the class questions of clarification, language syntax, and error message interpretation. You are prohibited from viewing another student's code under any circumstances.

Reflection Questions. Most assignments include a small number of what are referred to as "reflection questions." Any response submitted by you must be entirely your own work. Although you are permitted to discuss the meaning of a question with another student, you are prohibited from discussing reflection responses with any other student.

Exam. The mid-term exam will be on a scheduled date. The exam is "closed-book." No resources may be accessed while taking it with the sole exception of asking the instructor clarifying questions. During the exam, you prohibited from discussing any aspect of the exam with any other student under any circumstances.

Project. For the final project, students may be offered the option of working with a partner. Both a partner pair and a single student working alone are referred to as a group. Each group submits a single set of documents, a single set of reflection question solutions, and members of the same group are permitted to discuss any aspect of the assignment with one another. Interactions between groups are subject to the constraints described above under **Program Implementations**.