Collaboration Policy
CSCI1410 Artificial Intelligence

George Konidaris
gdk@cs.brown.edu

Spring 2017

1. Overview
As is true in all college classes, in CSCI1410 I must manage the tension between the fact that learning is
often best done collaboratively, and the need to ensure that every individual student is evaluated fairly. This
tension is particularly acute in 1410, where the assignments carry so much weight in your final grade.

Therefore, I am adopting the following collaboration policy:

You may discuss the material from the class and the assignments between yourselves as much as you like,
and consult any external source you find useful in understanding the material, but everything you hand
in (including code and written answers) must be your own work.

The policy means that you can use your fellow students as a resource to help understand the material in the
course, but you may not directly access or view their answers, or use their answers as your own. You may
use the internet or the textbook as a general resource for understanding the material for the course, but you
may not, under any circumstances, copy and submit code or written answers from it.

A good analogy is handing in an essay. You might discuss your thoughts with a classmate or a colleague, but
every paragraph in a submitted essay must be your own—copying paragraphs from the web is not allowed,
and neither is copying them from a friend.

Please be aware that I will run sophisticated plagiarism detection software on the code that you hand in. It
can, and will, determine whether or not you have copied code from each other, or from solutions available
from the internet, even if you change variable names, or move blocks of code around. It also produces a
handy visual comparison of the offending pairs of code, which disciplinary committees have in the past
found very easy to interpret.

2. Examples
Imagine that your are confused about breadth-first search, and your implementation is not working.
It is OK to:

- Ask a friend to explain how breadth-first search works.
- Examine an example search trace with a friend, and ask them to help you understand where it went
  wrong.
- Use Google or Wikipedia to find material describing breath-first search.
It is **not** OK to:

- Ask a friend to look at your code to help you debug it.
- Ask to see a copy of a friend’s code.
- Use Google or Wikipedia to find code for breadth-first search, and then use it in your answer.

Other things you should avoid:

- Do not make your code publicly available on the internet.
- Do not make your code world-readable.
- Do not use a public code archive or versioning system (e.g., github).

**3. Agreement**

Please sign the agreement below, and hand in the complete document with your first assignment.

By signing this document, you certify that you understand and agree to abide by the CSCI1410 Collaboration Policy, as published above and available on the course website.

Name

Brown AuthID (used to log into Banner)

CS Login (leave blank if none)

Email Address

Signature

Date

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.