Collaboration Policy

September 2020

Contents

CSCI0030 strives to maintain a balance between collaborative learning and individual assessment. The collaboration policy is built to reflect this. Its purpose is to ensure that students are actively thinking, working, and participating in the class, while also allowing students to discuss core course concepts.

1 Working with Other Students

1.1 Specific Assignment Policies

We have some assignment specific policies regarding peer collaboration unless otherwise specified:

Quizzes Quizzes are independent and must be entirely your own work. You cannot talk to any other students about them or consult any other resources.

Homeworks In general, on the homeworks, you can discuss any material covered in class with your classmates. For these homework problems, while you may discuss the homework, we expect all code and answers to be your own. Some homework problems you will be able to work collaboratively. This does not mean that you passively copy down the answers of your partner(s). It is your responsibility to ensure that you completely understand any material that you submit and that you are actively engaged in the production of the solution. We reserve the right to ask you to explain the reasoning behind your work without the presence of any collaborators. Also note that you must list the names of any students you collaborate with.

Projects For all projects, note that you can work with a partner. Your partner and you can, of course, share code and everything, however, we ask that you adhere to the homework collaboration policy of only discussing class material with other groups.

It is also your responsibility to make sure that your coursework is never in publicly accessible locations. Examples of such violations include, but are not limited to, posting your solutions on the web, leaving print outs of solutions in publicly accessible areas, and storing assignments in publicly accessible folders. If a classmate is able to copy your work due to negligence on your part, you may be held partially responsible.

Important: If an assignment has a specific collaboration policy in its preface, that policy is what is in effect for that assignment, not the policies listed above. It is your responsibility to read and understand this preface and contact the course staff if you are in any way uncertain of its meaning.

1.2 Independent Problems

Collaboration is not allowed on problems marked "Independent." An example of such a problem is below:

Task 1:

> **Independent:** What is the average airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?

These problems are meant to assess your individual understanding of the course material. To receive credit, you may only discuss these problems with CSCI0030 course staff.

2 Online Materials

We are very lucky to live in an information age where people can share knowledge so easily, giving us so much knowledge at our fingertips. We want to encourage you to take advantage of the available knowledge pertinent to **CS3**; but at the same time, our goal is to teach you to solve problems, and you cannot develop this skill if you consistently turn to others for their solutions.

2.1 Searching the web

The **CS3** website includes links to all the course lectures and assignments, as well as various supplementary documents, some of which we have written (e.g., Regex guide), and some of which we have not (e.g., the Python documentation). You are free to access all materials linked to from the course website.

You are also allowed, with some restrictions, to search the web. Specifically, you can search the web to enhance your understanding of a language construct, a data structure, or an algorithm presented in class. More generally, you can search the web for answers to questions that are independent of any particular assignment.

However, you are not permitted to search the Web for any other information regarding **CS3** assignments. Furthermore, it is never in any way acceptable to copy or adapt solutions from an online source. For example, searching for a solution to a problem in language X, when you were asked for a solution in language Y , is indeed information regarding a **CS3** assignment, and cannot be consulted.

Here are some example searches that abide by the collaboration policy:

- Searching for how to add to a list in python
- What is a ValueError?
- How to install a package in python
- What arguments does plotly's graphing function take?

And here are some that do not:

- How do you write rock paper scissors in python?
- Dale Chall implementation in python

If you're ever in doubt about whether a certain query is acceptable, you can always ask the TAs (or even ask them your question!).

2.2 Piazza

We use Piazza to provide students with an additional avenue for discussion and asking questions. However, you must take extra care when using Piazza not to reveal, or even hint at, the solutions to any assignments.

What you can do on Piazza is ask or answer clarification questions about course materials, including assignments, so long as they do not pertain to solutions to any assignments. What you cannot do on Piazza is post anything that is at all revealing about a solution to even a small part of any of the course assignments.

3 Questions

Remember that the course staff (Professors and Teaching Assistants) are all available to you during the hours outlined on the web page (http://cs.brown.edu/courses/cs0030/). If you have any questions or concerns about what is acceptable collaboration, play it safe and either meet with a TA during scheduled TA hours or send an email to the course staff (`cs0030tas@lists.brown.edu`).

By signing, I _____ agree to abide by all of the policies mentioned above. I have carefully read and fully understand all course policies. I understand that failure to adhere by these policies or the policies outlined in the Brown University Academic Code (http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/academic_code.

php) could result in an Academic Code Committee and an NC for the course.

Sign: _____

Date: _____