CSE341T/CSE549T **August 25, 2014**

Policy on Academic Integrity and Collaboration

This document[1] outlines the course policy on academic integrity and collaborations. It is posted on the course web site for your reference. You **must** read this document at the beginning of the course and sign a statement with each assignment indicating that you have complied with the policy. If you are uncertain as to how to comply with this policy, please ask the instructor or TAs.

1 Homeworks

Collaboration with Other Students

In general, verbal discussion of ideas, general approaches, etc. with other students is permitted for homeworks and programming assignments. Algorithms courses aren't much fun if you can't discuss your ideas! However, each student's *written* work outside of class is expected to be entirely his or her own. The following rules try to balance everyone's desire for free discussion with our need to assess each student's individual capabilities.

1. Please keep group discussions of the homework problems to no more than four people, all of whom are participating. In larger groups, it is difficult for everyone to contribute their ideas.
2. You must spend at least 30-45 minutes working on each problem before talking to any one about the problem.
3. If you discuss an assignment with another student, each of you must write your solutions saperately. Neither party may carry any written material or code away from the discussion. This rule also means that you can't save email from a discussion to refer to later while writing your solutions.
4. In order to follow the rules when attending office hours, you are not allowed to carry any written material pertaining to the homework outside office hours. The TAs will have notepads and sheets of paper that you can use to solve problems while in the office hours, but you must leave them behind when you leave.
5. You must not read someone else's written solutions or code or give your own solutions or code to someone else to read unless both of you have already turned in your assignments.
6. If you discuss a problem with another student, you must then go do something completely unrelated for at least **one hour** before writing any part of your own solution.
7. You must state the names of *all* your collaborators when you hand in your assignment.

[1] In the interests of full disclosure, parts of this document are "borrowed" almost verbatim from Dr Buhler's academic policy statement.

8. All the above rules apply when you are posting or answering questions on the forum on piazza. You are encouraged to post all your questions publicly. But, while you are free to post and answer clarification questions as you see fit, please do not post questions about how to solve a particular part of the problem before you have tried to solve it yourself. Also, do not post solutions to problems on Piazza.

We ask that you please honor the spirit as well as the letter of these rules. Please try to do as much of the assignments as you can on your own before seeking help from your peers. Don't just tell other students how to solve a problem; instead, give them hints or try to explain the basic principles that will let them solve specific problems themselves.

Keep in mind that your performance on exams constitutes a significant portion of your final course grade, so it ultimately does you no good to let other people do your assignments for you without learning the material. Conversely, you're not doing your fellow students a favor by helping them do their assignments without learning the material.

Acknowledging Sources of Assistance

You may use your course text, the course staff, and any written materials we provide to help you with your assignments. You must acknowledge all other sources when you turn in the homework. You may *not* use any of the following sources at all:

- previous years' solutions to homeworks, labs, or exams;
- solutions, code, or worked examples from other written sources (e.g. the Web) that solve a problem equivalent or highly similar to one appearing on an assignment or lab;
- Blogs, newsgroups, or other assemblages of "experts."

As an exception to the above rules, you can use whatever reference material you want to answer general questions about Cilk Plus, the mechanics of compiling / running your programs, and discrete math or proof techniques.

Discussions with friends who aren't currently taking the course, other faculty, your mother, Don Knuth, Edsger Dijkstra (if you can find a good medium), etc. are subject to the rules and guidelines outlined in the previous section. You must tell the other person in advance that the discussion pertains to a current course assignment.

2 549 Student Presentations and Final Project

For these assignments, you are encouraged to collaborate with one another, and you are allowed to use material you find online. That said, you should clearly acknowledge all sources that you used, and you should not copy others' work verbatim. For instance, if someone else has presented a paper that you plan to present in recitation, you can use their slides for inspiration, but not just copy their slides directly. For the final project, you should clearly distinguish your work from prior work (that your work may be based on) in your project report.

3 Sanctions

In cases where a student is found to have willfully violated the course collaboration policy, the minimum penalty is loss of credit equal to 200% of the assignment on which the violation occurred. For example, if an assignment is worth 10% of your grade, you will receive no credit for the assignment *and* an additional 10% off your final grade.

At the instructor's discretion, more severe penalties may be given for particularly egregious or repeated violations, including failure of the course and such other disciplinary actions as are warranted and allowed by Washington University. Incidents of known or suspected cheating are also recorded permanently by the CSE Department and by the Office of the Dean of Engineering and may affect your ability to graduate.

FYI, we have caught people cheating in the past. The most common violations have been copying of code from other people's assignments and trying to pass off code found on the web as the student's own work. Please note that we can and do detect these incidents even if you change all your variable names and change or delete any internal documentation.