CompSci 516
Database Systems

Honor Code
and
Course Policy

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Summary

- Read the honor code from http://integrity.duke.edu and guidelines for handling academic misconduct
  - (graduate) https://gradschool.duke.edu/sites/default/files/documents/dgs_manual_ch13.pdf
  - (undergraduate) https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/conduct/undergraduate-disciplinary-system

- Any suspected case of violation of honor code will be pursued aggressively by the course staff and will be handled through official university channels

- Strict measures will be taken according to the guidelines for student conduct

Collaboration

- Collaboration is allowed in projects (in groups of 3-4)

- No collaboration is allowed for any problem in any homework and exams

  - Any coding or other type of problems must be solved by each student individually

  - You are allowed to install a software together and test together whether toy examples run (not from homework questions)

  - But when you start working on the hw problems, the actual code/answers have to be obtained and written on your own

What is allowed/not allowed

- Can I discuss the course material (lecture slides, book chapters, any concept) with other students to understand the material better?

- YES, you are encouraged to do so!

What is allowed/not allowed

- Can I ask/discuss with other students what a question in a homework asks for?

- YES
- but you must be careful not to discuss the solutions
- Better to ask on piazza, where course staff and students can participate

What is allowed/not allowed

- Can I <u>show</u> my solution to homework/exam question to other students in the class in order to help them?

- NO
- If another student has the same/a very similar answer both of you will be responsible
  - We are aware that some questions will have a unique/similar solutions even if you solve it individually, they are fine
  - Change in variable names does not count as a new solution
  - We have a very deep memory covering previous years

What is allowed/not allowed

- Can I <u>see</u> the solution of homework/exam questions from another students in the class?

- Can I <u>discuss</u> my solution to a homework question with another student?

- NO, not before the homeworks have been submitted by both of you (and won't be changed further)

- You can discuss your solutions after the final submission of the homeworks (i.e. after the deadline is past), and also after they have been graded to understand different ways of solving a problem

What is allowed/not allowed

- Can we solve one or more homework questions <u>in a group and figure out the</u> solution together?

- NO – you can only install the software together in a group, and make sure it works by running toy code (not from assignement)

- Every student has to solve the problems individually on his/her own

What is allowed/not allowed

- Can I <u>search for solutions on the Internet, previous semesters, or other sources</u> of a Homework problem?

- NO

- You can look at similar lecture notes from different universities/MOOC in order to understand the material better
  - but never search for or copy solutions for a homework problem from the Internet or any other sources including people outside the class

What if it is not clear whether something is allowed?

- Ask the instructor
- DO NOT assume anything

What happens if course policy is violated

- We hope not! But, for any such incident, if the explanations are unsatisfactory to course staff..
  - Immediate zero credit in the *entire assignment* (not only the problem concerned)
  - (Undergraduate): will be handled through Office of Student Conduct
  - (Graduate): report to CS Chair, CS DGS, DGS of student's department (if not in CS), Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (copying the student in the email)
  - Disciplinary actions according to university guidelines
  - In addition, reduction in course grade up to failure in the class

What if I need help?

- The course staff will be more than happy to help you in all possible ways for the course
  - as fast as possible
  - to help you understand the material
  - to help you understand the problems asked in homework
  - any other help you need (e.g. accommodate special requests for extensions in **special circumstances**)
  - however, we will also ensure that fairness is preserved and no one is getting any undue advantage

- Ask your question on Piazza (public/private question), or contact the course staff in office hours or other one-one meetings as scheduled by appointments
  - Do not post your solution on piazza (as public or private post).

- But you are responsible to make every effort to learn the material to the best of your ability, and answer the homework/exam questions following the policy of this course

Missed exams policy

- Mark your calendar for exam days: 10/11, 12/15
- Exams won't be held later if you miss an exam
- Missed midterm policy:
  - grade will be scaled after 20% deduction from the final exam
  - deduction waived with written letters from Duke authority (Academic Dean for undergraduate students, DGS for graduate students)
  - let the instructor know early (before exams) if there is a valid reason
- Final exam missed -> incomplete grade