

Course Policies

1 THE Principle

Taking any unfair advantages over other class members is not allowed. It is everyone's responsibility to maximize the level of fairness in this class.

2 Honesty

Following the principle, any form of cheating, lying or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students can get zero and/or get negative scores and/or fail the class and/or be kicked out of school and/or receive other punishments for those kinds of misconducts.

3 Grade

Following the principle, it is the instructor's responsibility to grade the students fairly by their performance during this course. The grade will be generally based on the homework and exam scores, and can be fine-tuned by the student's participation in in-class and after-class discussions. There will be a midterm exam and a final exam.

4 Collaboration and Open-Book

Discussions on course materials and homework solutions are encouraged. But *you should write the final solutions alone and understand them fully*. Books, notes and Internet resources can be consulted, but *not copied from*.

Since everyone needs to write the final solutions *alone*, there is absolutely *no need* to lend your homework solutions and/or source codes to your classmates at any time. In order to maximize the level of fairness in this class, lending and borrowing homework solutions are both regarded as dishonest behaviors and will be punished according to the honesty policy.

5 Homework Sets

Approximately, six to seven homework sets will be given on a bi-weekly basis, and will be due one to two weeks after they are assigned (exact deadline will be announced individually on each homework set). The homework sets would generally be programming and mathematical assignments. Every homework set needs to be turned in as a whole. There are also reading assignments for the students each week.

6 Lateness

Following the principle, late homework submissions lead to penalty. Late homework submissions lose 10% of their value per 12-hours (or fractions thereof).

We grant each student four late half-days that are free from the lateness penalty. You can use them together on one homework set, use them separately on different homework sets or choose to not use them at all. To use the penalty-free late half-days, it is the students' responsibility to notify the corresponding TAs when the homework is turned in. Please use the penalty-free late half-days wisely—the notification cannot be withdrawn.

Following the principle, *no individual extensions will be granted* unless the instructor is absolutely sure that no unfairness is involved in the extensions (e.g. institute-established cases of illness or emergency).

Acknowledgement

The principle is rooted from the Caltech honor code. Many of the policies are directly or indirectly inspired by the course policy of Caltech CS156 and CS129.