<div align="center">**Course Policies**</div>

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 negative/zero scores and/or fail the class and/or be kicked out of school and/or receive other punishments for those kinds of misconducts.

3 Draft Notes

Some draft notes of *Learning from Data* by Abu-Mostafa, Magdon-Ismail and Lin will be freely provided to the students of this class. The students agree to use the book solely within this class, and agree to not distribute it in any form. Distributing it, purposely or carelessly, is unfair to the instructor (author) and hence is a serious violation of the principle. The students are encouraged to provide their constructive suggestions on the draft.

4 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 final project scores, and can be fine-tuned by the student's participation in in-class and after-class discussions. There will be no midterm and no final.

5 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.

6 Homework Sets

Approximately, seven homework sets will be given on a bi-weekly basis, and will be due two week after they are assigned (unless otherwise announced). Parts of the homework problems will be programming assignments. It is the students' responsibility to justify their solutions clearly, and the TAs' responsibility to evaluate the solutions fairly.

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

For programming assignments, students can write their code using any platforms/languages, but are not allowed to use any sophisticated packages. For instance, when being asked to implement the neural network algorithm, students cannot use any part of the `nnet` toolbox in MATLAB. It is the students' responsibility to check with the TA on what packages can and cannot be used for their programming assignments *before* writing their programs. Students need to upload their source code to designated

places, which will be announced later. Solutions that come without the associated code lose 90% of their value.

7   Language

The course will be taught with English slides and Mandarin illustrations. All other communications can use either English or Mandarin.

Acknowledgment

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 Caltech CS129.

Signature

I understand that I am making a decision to join this class under my free will. I certify that I have read the policy above and agree to all the items.

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sign at: `http://tinyurl.com/ml14policysign`

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