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 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 Grade

Following the principle, it is the instructor's responsibility to grade the students fairly by their performance during this course. The grade for the *Machine Learning Foundations* class will be generally based on the homework scores; the grade for the *Machine Learning Techniques* class will be generally based on the homework and final project scores. The grades can be fine-tuned by the student's participation in in-class and after-class discussions. There will be no midterm nor final exams.

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, four homework sets will be given for *Machine Learning Foundations*, and two more homework sets will be given for *Machine Learning Techniques*, and will be due several 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 homework loses 10% of its 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 each of the *Machine Learning Foundations* and *Machine Learning Techniques* classes, we grant each student four late half-days (nicknamed gold medals) that are free from the lateness penalty. Each medal can be applied to one homework set. You can use all those medals together on one homework set, use them separately on different homework sets or choose to not use them at all. The steps for using the medals will be announced later.

For programming assignments, students can write their code using any platforms/languages, but are not allowed to use any sophisticated packages. 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.

The homework set will consists of multiple-choice questions for automatic grading. Nevertheless, students are required to write down their derivation steps and upload them to designated places for TAs' spot checking. Students also need to upload their source code to designated places, which will be

announced later. Solutions that come without derivation steps will receive an automatic zero, and so will programming solutions that come without source code.

6 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.