<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   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 based on the homework and final project scores. 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 (including, but not limited to chatGPT) 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 eight homework sets will be given on a bi-weekly basis, and will be due two weeks 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).

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.

6   Final Project

The final project and its associated policies will be announced on or before 10/21/2024, and its report will be tentatively due on 12/23/2024, unless otherwise announced.

7 English

The course is designed to be mostly taught in an English environment. Mandarin will be allowed only during discussions, including in-class questions, TA sessions, forum chats, and instructor office hours. English will be used for all other purposes, including but not limited to teaching, **homework writing** and email communications.

Polite suggestions on English usage are encouraged to help everyone improve. Impolite suggestions, however, will hurt the learning atmosphere of the class and are regarded as a violation of the principle.

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.