Academic Honesty and Grading Standards
CMSC 477/677 – Spring 2007 – Prof. desJardins

All students must read, understand, and follow the course policy on academic honesty and grading standards. Each student will be asked to sign a statement indicating that they have read and understood the policy.

1 Academic Honesty

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community, in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook, the Faculty Handbook, or the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC Directory. [Statement adopted by UMBC's Undergraduate Council and Provost's Office.]

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. In particular, all assignments are to be your own work. You may discuss the assignments with anyone. However, any help you receive must be documented as follows.

Written answers for homeworks and reports must be your own work. Plagiarism (copying) of any source, including another student's work, is not acceptable. If you wish to quote a source, you must do so explicitly, **using quotation marks and proper citation at the point of the quote**.
`http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/bib_journals.htm` gives an excellent overview of how to correctly cite a source.
`http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html` gives guidelines on acceptable paraphrasing.

The implementation of the programming assignments must be your own work. You will be using a public-domain software package as a starting point, but your application must be your own work. Before using code or knowledge bases from any source, you should check with the instructor to be sure the use is acceptable. If you do use code from another source, you must explicitly cite the source. If you are stumped on a particular error, you may consult with someone else; however, you must include an acknowledgement of the source and scope of the help you received in your project report. Reasonable help will not affect your grade; failure to cite your sources is academically dishonest.

Fabrication: Fabricating results, sources, or any information, is academically dishonest and subject to the penalties outlined below.

Aiding and abetting: Providing another student with answers, or helping them to cheat, is an **equally serious** violation of the principles of academic honesty. A student who commits such an offense is subject to the same penalties as the student who cheated.

Penalties: The consequence for any infraction of this policy is, **at a minimum**, a zero grade **for the entire assignment**. In addition, in order to pass the course, the student may be required to recomplete the assignment honestly. Consequences for more serious infractions of this policy, or for second offenses, may include, but are not limited to, receiving a failing grade in the course or being suspended or expelled from the university.

2   Grading of Assignments

Some written assignments (such as certain problem sets) will have a "right" answer. Those will be graded according to correctness, with partial credit given for incorrect solutions to the extent that you've shown your work and indicated why you believe your answer to be correct.

Your paper summaries should include a complete bibliographic reference and notes on the important contributions of the paper.[1] Full credit will be given for reasonably readable, coherent summaries that are completed on time (i.e., turned in at or before the class). There is no requirement or expectation of deep analysis in these notes, though you're certainly welcome to be as deep as you'd like!

For the in-class presentations and project reports, a portion of your grade will be given for the content of the assignment, and a portion will be given for readability and style. The *approximate* distribution of credit will be as follows:

- 80% for content (well thought out and well reasoned answers; answers that are "correct" to the extent that there *is* a correct answer, which there often is not).

- 10% for "readability": correct grammar and spelling, readable formatting.

- 10% for "elegance": well expressed thoughts in a well structured essay or presentation.

Assignments that I consider to be unreadable will be returned ungraded. You may submit an assignment returned for this reason **up to one time** during the semester.

Although this is not a writing class, success in any scientific discipline requires the ability to effectively communicate one's thoughts. If you have difficulty writing, whether it's because English is not your first language, or because you haven't taken many writing classes in your undergraduate program, I highly suggest that you take advantage of UMBC's writing center, on the lower level of the main library. (Phone 455-3126, hours Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., from February 7 through May 15.) This is a free tutoring service that will help you prepare essays and papers for any course.

3   Late Policy

Assignments are expected to be turned in on time, and are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Each student will receive 7 "late days" that can be used on any combination of assignments over the course of the semester. **No late days can be used for the agents project demonstration, or for the MAS draft survey paper.** Once your late

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[1] Even in these summaries, you should not plagiarize: That is, you should clearly mark any direct quotes. The reason for this is largely to get you used to taking notes in a way that facilitates academic honesty. If you later use your notes to write a summary or passage in a related-work section for a paper or report, you don't want to inadvertently include passages from your notes that are direct quotes from the paper.

days are used up, late assignments will be accepted will only be accepted under provably dire circumstances (such as hospitalization or a complete blackout of the entire Eastern seaboard).

I have read and understood the CMSC 477/677 course policy on academic honesty and grading standards. I agree to follow the policy, and I understand the consequences for violating the policy.

_____   _____
Signature   Date

_____
Print Name