James Davis - ECE461 - Software Engineering

Academic Integrity

Don't cheat

The course Brightspace has links to Purdue's official policies. Those policies apply to this course. I am using this space to add my perspective.

The Purdue Honor Pledge is "**As a Boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together – We are Purdue.**" Let me clarify what it means to be "honest and true" on the different assignments in this course.

If I find evidence that you have engaged in academic dishonesty, I will contact you to discuss it. If I conclude that there is a preponderance of evidence that you have behaved dishonestly, then at my discretion:
  o You may receive a 0 on the assignment.
  o You may receive a failing grade in the course and have your behavior reported to the Office of the Dean of Students for their judgment.

In each kind of assignment, the primary consideration is that you clearly indicate which parts of your submission are your own work, and which parts are communicating someone else's work. A failure to make this distinction is commonly called **plagiarism**. However, in the engineering workplace, what academics call "plagiarism" is usually thought of as "benefitting from someone else's expertise". Engineering knowledge is communal expertise hard-won over many years. With this in mind, I am open – indeed desirous – to see you learn how to re-use concepts and code. But thoughtfully! In your assignments, you must justify your decisions. This includes re-use decisions, e.g. of designs, of components, or of tests.

Generative AI and Large Language Models

Despite their limitations, these tools are already transforming the discipline of software engineering. Engineers who figure out how to use them well will get promoted. Those who do not will miss out on opportunities. Therefore, the use of these tools is mandatory in ECE 461. Here are some specifics:
  o There will be a homework assignment on ChatGPT and CoPilot.
  o You will be required to use such tools as part of your project, in a manner that you and your team will determine.

Considerations for the final exam

Professional engineering organizations do not care about your ability to perform on timed examinations, but rather about your ability to thoughtfully address questions in a reasonable amount of time. To reflect this, the final exam will be available online over a 48-hour period from Tuesday noon to Thursday noon of finals week. The exam will be designed to be completed in a 3-hour block. On the exam, you may refer to books, presentations, notes, the Internet, etc. You may not refer to your classmates, nor may you post questions on Stack Overflow etc. and use the answer. Keep three things in mind:

1. You must cite any work you reference.
2. Citations should justify and inform your thinking, but should not **replace** thought. Persuade me that you have your own thoughts, that you are learning to become a trustworthy engineer in your future workplace.
3. To reflect this, you must include your signature on the Purdue Honor Pledge.