Course contract

Software is intellectual property. The world of professional programming, which many of you will enter upon graduation from Northeastern, relies on all of us to treat software with the respect it deserves: as a product that belongs to its creator, until that creator has determined—via contracts or licenses—who gets to use his or her product, and how. Programming as a professional discipline will collapse, depriving many of us of our jobs, if software gets abused as if it was a random collection of bits and bytes that can be copied at will.

This is serious business, which is new to many of you. In this course we will briefly introduce some of the legal rules that govern professional programming, such as copyright laws. This will help you understand what the contracts mean that you will likely be required to sign when you start work at your first coop or full-time employer. We also require you to follow rules of professional conduct in this class. At the University, these rules are known as Northeastern's Academic Integrity policy.

Contract.

I,

_____

(first name, middle name, last name, student id)

acknowledge that I am aware of, and agree to abide by, the following rules in this course.

1. Homework problem solving is a task shared between me and my partner, if any, but nobody else. I may always use course resources such as Piazza and teaching staff, to solicit help about these problems, but I will not discuss homeworks with any student other than my partner. This applies both ways: it forbids soliciting help from, **as well as** sharing my solution with, any student other than my partner.

2. I will not interact with any other student during the exams in this class, nor will I use any electronics, such as phones, tablets, laptops.

Failure to abide by these rules is considered an academic integrity violation. Such violation is serious; so much so that the University has an office dedicated to dealing with such cases. In case of a violation I will be reported to that office.

I also agree to

- read the Lecture Notes regularly before class, to get the most out of attending the lecture;

- visit Piazza regularly, to see whether any question I may have has been answered already;

- inform my instructor if my homework partner doesn't participate in doing the homeworks.

_____

(place, date, signature)