Standards of Academic Conduct in Dr. Ostermann's Classes

(*version 1.0 - Mar 26, 2012*)

This document is your first assignment. It is also available on the website for the course for your future reference. You must read this entire document and the online references that it refers to, initial each section where indicated, and sign the bottom of the form. Then make a copy of this document and return the original, signed copy on the second day of class.

1 Motivation

This is a popular course with students. It is not, however, an easy course. The prerequisite for this course is 2 to 3 years of good undergraduate training in Computer Science. According to the comments that I receive in the course evaluations and the email that I often get from students after they graduate, students enjoy this course because they learn a lot.

I firmly believe that the reason that students learn a lot in this course is because they work very hard. I believe that the extensive programming projects in this course are the key to reinforcing the concepts that we'll discuss. If you don't do the projects, then you won't learn as much in this course.

I don't believe in busy work. I won't ask you to turn in assignments whose only purpose is to prove to me that you're paying attention in class. I won't ask you to write programs or large portions of code that don't directly enhance your understand of important concepts. When possible, I will try to keep our assignments enjoyable or at least interesting. I will give you an adequate amount of time for each assignment. To avoid penalizing students who budget their time carefully, I will try to avoid extending project deadlines at the last minute.

Place your initials here to indicate that you understand Dr. Ostermann's emphasis on class projects _____

2 ACM

The ACM is the professional society for professional computer scientists. If you're not already a student member of the ACM, you should consider joining. You should certainly become a member of the ACM as soon as you graduate. As a professional in Computer Science, you will earn a good living. In return, you will be expected to live up to a high standard of conduct. You will find a copy of the official "ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" here:

`http://www.acm.org/constitution/code.html`

In all matters concerning this course, I will expect each student to adhere to the principles and responsibilities described in that document.

Place your initials here to indicate that you have read and understood the "ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" _____

3 Plagiarism at Ohio University

Submitting the work of another person as your own is called plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of the ACM code of professional conduct. It defeats the purpose of the assignments in this course and diminishes the value of the degrees earned by every other student. Ohio University considers plagiarism a *Code A offense* under the heading of *Academic Misconduct*. The penalty for being found guilty of a Code A offense is

> A student found to have violated [...] will be subject to a maximum sanction of expulsion [...]

There are 18 Code A offenses at Ohio University; Academic Misconduct is listed first (which you should infer as being meaningful). Read the Ohio University "Student Code of Conduct Policy". You will find a copy on the web page here:

`http://www.ohio.edu/judiciaries/conduct_policy.cfm`

Place your initials here to indicate that you have read and understood the Ohio University "Student Code of Conduct Policy"

4 Integrity in the Russ College

In the Russ College of Engineering and Technology, we take academic honesty very seriously. In the Winter of 2008, the Student Academic Honor Council created an Honor Code to which we all agree to adhere. You can find information about that document and the process that created it here:

`http://www.ohio.edu/engineering/Integrity/`

Please read through that material and the material on the referenced pages. In particular, be sure to read the Honor Code, listing your responsibilities, here:

`http://www.ohio.edu/engineering/integrity/Sahc/`

and my responsibilities as an instructor here:

`http://www.ohio.edu/engineering/integrity/fahc/`

Place your initials here to indicate that you have read and understood the Russ College Honor Code and associated material

5 Sharing

In the past, the majority of the plagiarism problems that I have seen have occurred immediately before a project is due. Typically, a student who is struggling with a project will seek out another student who perhaps understands the material better. In an attempt to be helpful to the student having trouble, the other student has sometimes made a printed or electronic copy of a nearly-finished project available. Although it is not necessarily the original intention of the first student to plagiarize the work of the second student, it often happens. For that reason, in this course it will be a violation of academic standards to provide printed or electronic copies of any portions of your programs to other students in the course. It will also be a violation of class academic standards to be in possession of printed or electronic copies of programs or portions of programs written by other students in the current or previous school years if such material was designed to provide functionality that is similar to that required in programming projects assigned in this course.

_____ *Place your initials here to indicate that you understand this policy on the sharing of work*

6 Exceptions

The following exceptions to these standards will be in effect for the course:

1. We will have at least one group project in the course. For group projects, you may of course freely share any of your work with the other members of your group
2. Computer Scientists must be able to learn from each other. You must be free to discuss problems that you're having with other students. You must be free to discuss design tradeoffs, algorithms, or data structures. You must be free to discuss library functions, their arguments, their return values and their general properties. A good general rule is that you are free to discuss with your classmates anything about your project in general terms and that you are free to discuss the details of individual lines of code. Discussing the details of large blocks of code tends to lead to plagiarism and should be avoided.
3. If, in order to complete a project, you need to use code that you did not write yourself but acquired in electronic or printed form (for example) from any other person (including Dr. Ostermann), you must clearly cite the origins of that code in the program. Although you may not receive credit for portions of the code that you didn't write, you will not be in violation of academic standards if the origins of the code are clearly cited.

_____ *Place your initials here to indicate that you understand the exceptions to Dr. Ostermann's standards of academic conduct in this course*

7 Penalty

In the past, there have been a number of students who believe that they can cheat on the assignments by turning in the work of others; many of those students have been caught and punished. The final purpose of this document is to make you aware that in this class, there will be no tolerance whatsoever for violations of any of these policies in my courses. Any non-trivial violations of these policies will result in every student involved immediately failing the course. The name of each student and the circumstances of the violation will be filed with the EECS department chair, the student's home department (if not EECS), and with the Ohio University office of Judiciaries. Furthermore, if I feel that it is in the best interest of Ohio University and the other Computer Science students that such a student be expelled from the university, I will file formal charges against the student with University Judiciaries and recommend that the student be removed permanently from Ohio University.

_____ *Place your initials here to indicate that you understand the penalty for violations of the academic standards of this course*

By signing below, I certify that I have read and I understand this document and the links to other documents that it contains. I understand Dr. Ostermann's expectations of me in this course and I agree that I will endeavor to live up to those expectations. I further certify that I understand that if I violate those expectations, I expect to fail the course and may be brought before University Judiciaries and expelled from Ohio University.

To complete this assignment, return a signed copy of the handout to class. Keep the second copy for your reference.

Clearly write your name	Student ID
Signature	Date