

Submit your response to the assignment via the drop box on the D2L web site. The drop box will close at 11:59 AM on Monday, 1 December 2014.

1. (25 points) Professor Recktenwald has been given an assignment by Dean Su to create a short handbook on academic integrity, with special emphasis on preventing cheating in on-line homework assignments and exams. There are plenty of resources on this topic, but Recktenwald is unsure about how to effectively communicate the available information and advice to students. Your assignment is to help him draft a brief statement that faculty can read (or extemporaneously present) to students on the first day of class. Please provide answers to the following questions with the goal of communicating to students effectively.
  - a. What are the common attitudes of PSU engineering students toward on-line cheating? Are you personally bothered when other students cheat? Is this a problem that should be addressed by both faculty and students?
  - b. What is the advantage of cheating? What message or value would you give to counter this advantage? What harm, if any, is done by cheating?
  - c. In the on-line quiz on innovation for ME 370, the first question asked you to affirm that you were not going to cheat. The purpose of that question was to remind you of the expectation that cheating was not acceptable. Was that offensive? Did it change your attitude toward cheating? If so, how? Should all exams have this kind of affirmation?
  - d. Considering all of the preceding questions, what is the single most important message you would give to students to cause them to resist the temptation to cheat? A one-sentence answer would be best because it would crystalize the argument.

Do not worry whether your opinions or information will be popular with the faculty in general or Recktenwald in particular. The key objectives of this assignment are (1) to provide helpful information, and (2) to reflect on how professional ethics can be applied to address cheating. It is OK to discuss this issue with other students so long as the final product is the result of your own effort.

2. (25 points) Read the blog post by Clay Shirky, *A Rant About Women*, <http://www.shirky.com/weblog/2010/01/a-rant-about-women/>. Then read *at least one* of the following
  - Danah Boyd, Whose voice do you hear? Gender issues and success, [http://www.zephorias.org/thoughts/archives/2010/01/19/whose\\_voice\\_do.html](http://www.zephorias.org/thoughts/archives/2010/01/19/whose_voice_do.html)
  - Tom Coates, Should we encourage self-promotion and lies? [http://plasticbag.org/archives/2010/01/should\\_we\\_encourage\\_s](http://plasticbag.org/archives/2010/01/should_we_encourage_s)
  - Michelle Haimoff's On Clay Shirky's "Rant About Women", <http://community.feministing.com/2010/01/18/on-clay-shirkys-rant-about-women/>

and answer the following questions. Your answers should be written in complete sentences. The answers should be brief, say 3 to 5 sentences for each part.

- a. What are the ethical issues raised by Shirky's post?
- b. Should you follow his advice? Why?

- c. Suppose you have a friend who is a sophomore engineering student working on her first resume. She is applying for a job that requires MATLAB programming skills. Your friend has used MATLAB, but she needs help from you on any substantial MATLAB assignments, and she sticks to following examples given in a “recipe” format.. What is your advice to her for including MATLAB on her resume? How should she respond to the interview question, “On your resume you list ‘MATLAB’ as one of your software skills. How would you describe your level of expertise?”

*Note:* I do not consider there to be one absolutely correct answer to these questions. Your response (OK, “answer”) will be graded on whether you correctly use and apply the concepts discussed during lecture and in the readings. Your grade will be based on whether you give cogent reasons for any position you take on the issues raised in the assignment. You will also be graded on whether your writing is grammatically correct, easy to understand, spelled correctly, and whether the document you submit has a professional appearance.