

Academic Ethics and Integrity

CS109: Ethical Foundations of Computer Science

January 29, 2019

Today's Plan

- Groups!
- Case Study: Andrew Wakefield
- Introduction to Academic Ethics and Integrity

Groups!

These were assigned in Canvas:

1. Find your people
2. Introduce yourselves
 - Name, place of origin, something you do outside of CS
 - Exchange contact information
3. Find a time to meet
4. Get ready for group discussion

To make this easier, use your group number to first find your moderator:

Alison: 3, 4, 7, 9, 22, 26

Sarah: 2, 5, 8, 11, 23

Kishan: 14, 15, 19, 21, 24

Sunaina: 6, 17, 18, 20, 26

Will: 1, 10, 12, 13, 25

Case Study: Andrew Wakefield

- Consider our ethical frameworks:
 - Duty-based (Non-consequentialist)
 - Concerned with agent's intent rather than consequence
 - Ethical conduct means choosing actions that are right and good
 - Consider duties and obligations when choosing
 - Consequentialist
 - Concerned with consequence of agent's actions
 - Ethical conduct means attempting to do the most good and the least harm
 - Considers the impact on all individuals involved when choosing
 - Virtue (Agent-centered)
 - Concerned with ethical makeup of agent
 - Ethical conduct means determining an agent's traits and behaviors and building on those that foster good
 - Considers entirety of an agent's life rather than individual actions

Academic Ethics and Integrity

What is Integrity?

“Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.”

– paraphrase of a Charles Marshall quote
in *Shattering the Glass Slipper*

Integrity:

- firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values
--Mirriam-Webster Dictionary
- the quality of being honest and fair
--Mirriam-Webster Learners Dictionary

What does it mean to act with integrity in these situations?

- Getting home with a friend but there's only one bird
- Seeing people get on the bus without swiping their card
- I got charged for a cheese pizza when I got a pepperoni pizza

How do ethics and integrity relate to academics?

- What is the purpose of academics? *Why are we here?*
 - Learning old knowledge
 - Creating new knowledge
- How might academic ethics and integrity relate to Andrew Wakefield?
- How might they relate to you?

What does it mean to act with integrity in these situations?

- A classmate asked me to do his project for him
- Receiving screenshots of a test on a group text.
- Finding a programming assignment on GitHub
- Showing a friend my answer on an assignment for her to copy
- People looking at their phone or someone else's answers on tests
- People asked me for the answers to Mike Scott's midterm after taking it early
- I was offered \$20 for the answers to a homework I had already done
- Telling your friends hard questions on a test
- A student I was tutoring in a statistics class asked to see my project in the class to have an idea of what direction to take the project.
- When a friend cheats off of you on an exam and tells you afterwards
- Helping a 314 student, find out they copied code from someone else

Academic Integrity

A fundamental principle for any educational institution, academic integrity is highly valued and seriously regarded at The University of Texas at Austin. More specifically, you and other students are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. This is a very basic expectation that is further reinforced by the University's Honor Code. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:

- acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

For the official policies on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty, please refer to Chapter 11 of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities.

[Why Is Academic Integrity So Important?](#)

[Consequences of Academic Dishonesty Can Be Severe!](#)

[Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#)

From deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php

Questions to Consider

- Who is harmed by breaches in academic integrity?
 - The person who commits the breach
 - UTCS students
 - UTCS alumni
 - UTCS faculty
 - Future colleague
 - ...
- What are the long-term consequences of those breaches?
 - What if the person is caught?
 - What if the person is not caught?

I would never...

- How do people end up here?
 - Overconfidence Bias
 - Loss Aversion
 - “People make bad choices if they're mad or scared or stressed”
 - Bulda, the troll, in Fixer-Upper, the song by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez [from *Frozen*]
- How do you avoid making these choices?
 - Understand course policies
 - Plan your assignments and studying so that you are well-prepared
 - Consider your actions in these scenarios *before* you are in them

More Considerations: Creating New Knowledge

The right to search for truth implies also a duty; one must not conceal any part of what one has recognized to be true.

---Albert Einstein

- Responsibility to do your best
- Tell the truth and the whole truth
- Think critically
- The other stuff still applies!
 - No plagiarism, no unauthorized collusion, ...

Next Week: Judgments and Stereotypes

Case Study: Sexual Consent and #MeToo

- People do not always agree on definitions of sexual consent
 - Some things are obvious, others less so
- What is a helpful definition of consent and why?
- Consider the following question for your discussion:
 - Why might someone feel uncomfortable telling their partner “no”?
 - Why might someone be uncertain whether their partner’s consent is “enthusiastic”?
 - How can someone help their partner feel safe and have fun?

Announcements

- Same pattern as last week, only this time with a group!
- Blog post should also be an actual blog post
 - More instructions will be included with the blog post
- We're going to drop to two peer reviews a person
 - Watch Piazza for feedback on the current peer reviews
 - Don't forget to not hit "save"!
- Group evaluations will also start
 - You'll need first and last names (with correct spelling) and EIDs
 - We'll authenticate your identity using your @utexas.edu email address