The course syllabus handed out at the beginning of the semester has the this to say about cheating:

It's ok to ask someone about the concepts, algorithms, or approaches needed to do the assignments. We encourage you to do so; both giving and taking advice will help you to learn. However, what you turn in must be your own, or for projects, your group's own work; copying other people's code, solution sets, or from any other sources is strictly prohibited. The project assignments must be the work of the students turning them in.

I will have no sympathy for students who are caught cheating. All students are subject to the Northeastern University Academic Integrity Policy. All cases of suspected plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (osccr).

While grading the first project, the course staff came across striking similarities between a number of project submissions. Upon further investigation, these all appeared to borrow ideas (and sometimes code) from a number of existing Pintos solutions available online. Examining any other solution directly violates the policy on cheating, and as such, is a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.

As a result, we will be making a number of changes to the projects and the schedule for the remainder of this semester. For those of you who completed the projects without unauthorized assistance, these changes are going to make your job strictly easier. For the remainder of the groups, these changes will ensure that you are making proper progress on the projects and that you are learning the concepts that the projects are supposed to convey.

PARTIAL AMNESTY

If any member of your group used unauthorized aid on project 1, we are offering partial amnesty. If you admit that you used such aid, you will receive a 0 for the code portion of the project (i.e., it will be as if your project failed all of the test cases). However, we will grade your design document as normal. Thus, you will receive a maximum of a 50/100 on the project (since the test cases count for 50% of your project grade). If you wish to take this option, you should email the instructor by 12:00:00 noon tomorrow (October 14, 2010).

On the other hand, if you do not admit that you used such aid and the course staff have evidence that you did so, you will receive a 0 on the entire project. Your case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

UPDATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

As of today, we're going to cancel the fourth project. We will use the resulting time to space out the two other projects. The new deadlines will be

Project 2 due: November 2, 2010, 11:59:59 PM
Project 3 due: December 7, 2010, 11:59:59 PM

This will give you almost three weeks from today to complete project 2 (for a total of five weeks), and five weeks to complete project 3. The 15% of your grade that was allocated to project 4 will

now be allocated to the midterm and final, so that the midterm now counts for 25% of your grade, and the final now counts for 25% as well.

MILESTONE SUBMISSIONS

To further ensure that you are making sufficient progress on the projects, we will also be posting mid-project milestones. These will roughly correspond to the different parts of the projects. Each milestone will reference a number of the provided tests that your project will be required to pass—your submitted milestone project *must* pass these test cases. In other words, for the tests referenced in the milestone, the grade for those test cases will be derived from whether or not your milestone submission passes the test cases. Failing to submit the milestone will result in failure of the specified test cases in your final grade. You do not need to submit a design document with the milestone submission. Slip days can be applied to milestone submissions.

The milestone for project 2 is listed below (the milestones for project 3 will be announced when the project is released):

Project 2 milestone: October 22, 2010, 11:59:59 PM
Required testcases: `args-none`, `args-single`, `args-multiple`, `args-dbl-space`, `args-many`, `exit`

The milestone for project 2 will roughly require you to complete sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3, as well as the `write` and `exit` system call.

POST-PROJECT INTERVIEWS

For projects 2 and 3, after each final project submission, the course staff will be conducting interviews with every group. These interviews will take the form of code walks and question and answer sessions. The purpose is to ensure that you actually completed the project yourself—if you used unauthorized aid, you are very unlikely to pass the interview. The grade from these interviews will count for 25% of your project grade (the remainder of your grade will come from 50% code correctness and 25% design document).

EXAM QUESTIONS

A number of the questions that will appear on the midterm and the final will refer to aspects of Pintos that are covered by the projects. The goal of these questions is to test your comprehension of the project concepts and ensure that you complete the projects without unauthorized aid. If you used unauthorized aid, you are unlikely to be able to answer the questions sufficiently.

CHEATING DETECTION

Using unauthorized aid (including viewing *any* solution to the projects that you did not yourself write) is a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy and will not be tolerated. We will be running all project submissions through a number of cheating detectors; any future cases of unauthorized aid will be referred immediately to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, as outlined above.