Exercise: Creating a Team Honor Code

As a group, you will write an honor code contract that lays out what kinds of processes and practices the group will use to ensure a functional working group.

The honor code should start with an articulation of clear team goals — at the end of the semester what will the group have accomplished? How will you know if the group has been successful? Be sure everyone in the group understands the goals and is committed to the shared goals.

The contract should then be clear and specific about the different tasks and jobs that need to happen for the group to complete the project and meet the team's goals. There should be flexibility built into the honor code — in other words, some details (tasks and jobs) can be assigned now, but there also needs to be a mechanism by which tasks are equitably assigned as they emerge throughout the process. The contract also needs to express how the group will create a collaborative climate, how the group will address conflict within the group, and how the group will address members who are not completing their assigned tasks. The contract should also detail how group members will communicate with one another and expectations regarding timely responses, attending meetings, etc.

Once your group has completed the honor code, you will each submit it (this will serve as everyone individually signing the honor code). If you need to update your honor code, at any point, just let us know what needs to be updated.