Comp 112: Introdution to Programming

Wesleyan University

Spring 2017

Instructors

Jeff Epstein	Ed Morehouse	Kelly Thayer
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Exley 637	Exley 645	Exley 622
Mon. 2:50–5:00	Thurs. 1:00–3:00	Mon. 8:30–10:40,
		Tue. 10:10–11:15

Course Assistants

Celeste Barnaby	Hanna Elszasz	Emma Freeman
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Hudson Harriman-Smith	Olivia Kim	Narin Luangrath
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Mario See	Samantha Sheppe	Brian Sing
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Lectures

Tuesdays 8:50–10:10 Shanklin 107

Lab Sections

1. Thursdays 8:50–10:10 Exley 103   (Morehouse, Harriman-Smith, Sing)
2. Wednesdays 8:20–9:40 Exley 103   (Epstein, Barnaby, Harriman-Smith)
3. Wednesdays 8:20–9:40 Exley 74   (Thayer, Luangrath, See)
4. Thursdays 8:50–10:10 Exley 72   (Thayer, Luangrath, See)
5. Wednesdays 10:50–12:10 Exley 74   (Epstein, Elszasz, Sheppe)

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to computer programming in a modern high-level imperative programming language (Python). Topics covered will include program structure, types, functions, flow control, basic data structures, recursion, input/output, modules and exceptions. The lectures will introduce the main features of imperative programming and present a variety of examples. The lab sessions will give students the opportunity to apply these concepts to solve problems drawn from a variety of fields using the tools of programming.

Prerequisites

None.

Text

Think Python (2nd ed.) by Allen B. Downey
Electronic edition freely available at: `http://greenteapress.com/wp/think-python-2e/`

Moodle

Each lab section has a site on Wesleyan's Moodle server (`http://moodle.wesleyan.edu/`) where students may access course documents and submit assignments electronically.

Homework

Homework will be assigned weekly. Each assignment will be released to Moodle on Tuesday shortly after the end of lecture. Submissions will be due at the beginning of the following week's lecture (9:00 AM cutoff). In the event of a holiday or exam, special instructions will be given. Submissions should be made according to the instructions of a student's instructor of record. All electronic submissions should be made through Moodle. Late submissions will not be accepted without a University-recognized justification.

Lab

Each week there will be a lab practicum in which students will work on a variety of programming activities. These activities are intended to help students develop practical programming and problem-solving skills. In each lab session students will practice the new concepts introduced in the course that week, and integrate them with concepts learned previously to write programs of increasing sophistication and utility.

If you know that you will be unable to attend your assigned lab section in a given week, contact your instructor to see if you may be able to attend a different section on a one-off basis. Such accommodations will be considered only with prior notice.

Midterm Exams

There will be two midterm exams for the course. These are scheduled for Tuesdays March 7 and May 9, in lieu of lecture, at the usual place and time. You should plan to sit the exams as scheduled. If you cannot do so due to a prior University-recognized commitment, then you must make arrangements with the instructors to sit the exam *before* the scheduled exam date. A make-up exam for students who fail to sit an exam by the scheduled date will be considered only in the case of a University-recognized justification.

Programming Project

In lieu of a final exam, students will be assigned a final programming project. This will be of greater length and complexity than the homework and lab assignments and allow students to demonstrate their problem-solving abilities and understanding of the topics developed throughout the course. Several possible project topics will be offered, and students with a strong interest in a certain field of endeavor will be given an opportunity to propose their own programming project within that field. Detailed information about the programming project will be provided after spring break.

Grading

Your course grade is determined from several components, weighted as follows:

Homework Problem Sets	25%
Laboratory Sessions	10%
Midterm Exams	40%
Programming Project	25%

All homework assignments will be weighted equally when calculating grades. Lab submissions demonstrating a good-faith effort to complete the assigned activities will receive full credit.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lecture and laboratory sessions. Whether or not students attend these sessions, they will be held responsible for the course material covered therein.

Instructors reserve the right to drop students who, without notice, fail to attend lecture or lab in the first week of the course in order to make room for those on the course waiting list.

Drop-In Tutoring

A drop-in help clinic run by the course's C.A.s will be available throughout the semester. Scheduling is subject to C.A. availability, but tentatively planned as follows:

day	time	location	staff
Sun	7:00–9:00 PM	Exley 74	Freeman, Kim
Mon	7:00–9:00 PM	Exley 74	Freeman, Sheppe
Thurs	7:00–9:00 PM	Exley 74	Kim, Sheppe

Any scheduling changes will be announced and posted to Moodle.

Office Hours

Instructors' office hours are as listed above in their contact data, as announced or posted throughout the semester, and by appointment.

Academic Integrity

Collaboration and learning from one another are encouraged. Copying and cheating are strictly forbidden. You should be able to distinguish the two. If you're contemplating an action and you're not sure into which category it falls, you should consider whether what you intend to submit is the product of your own efforts and represents your own understanding of the ideas involved. If it is/does not, then you should not submit it as your own work. Wesleyan imposes an *Honor Code* (to be found in the Student Handbook). You are expected to abide by it in all of your courses, including this one.

Academic Accommodations

The instructors are committed to supporting an accessible and inclusive learning environment where disability is recognized as an aspect of diversity. Students seeking academic accommodations for this course should follow University procedure by meeting with their class dean or someone from the office of disability resources and obtaining a letter of academic accommodations. This letter should be presented to the student's instructor of record as early in the semester as possible so that we may make the necessary accommodations. This procedure is outlined at `http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/Student/Academic%20Accommodations.html`.