

# OIM3640 - Problem Solving and Software Design



# So, how are you doing?

Please introduce yourself, including:

- **Who** are you?
- Which **year** are you in? What **concentration**?
- **Why** are you taking this class?
- Do you have any **programming experience**?
- How was your **summer**?
- How can we **remember** you?

# Agenda

- Introduction to the course, syllabus and deliverables
- Term Project (*mentioned*)
- Software
  - Python
  - Visual Studio Code, and extensions
  - [GitHub.com](https://github.com), GitHub desktop
- Write your first Python program!

# Syllabus

- Instructor: Zhi Li (李直)
- Email: [zli@babson.edu](mailto:zli@babson.edu)
- Office Hour:
  - by appointment
  - Canvas/GitHub/Slack
- Class GitHub: [github.com/OIM3640](https://github.com/OIM3640)

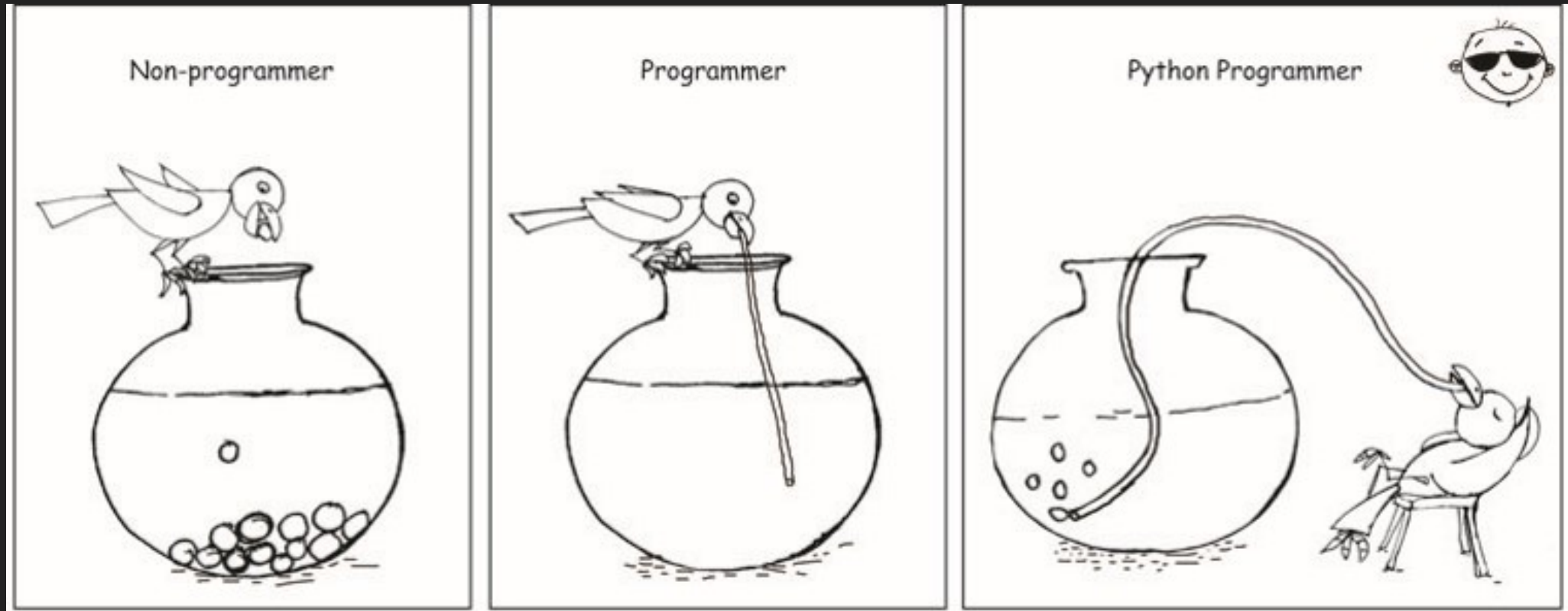


# Syllabus

- Course Objectives
- Prerequisites and Textbook
- Software
- Term Project
- Graded Homework/In-Class Exercises/Exam
- Grading
- Course Policies

# How to Learn Python Programming?

# Python is ...Simple and Elegant!

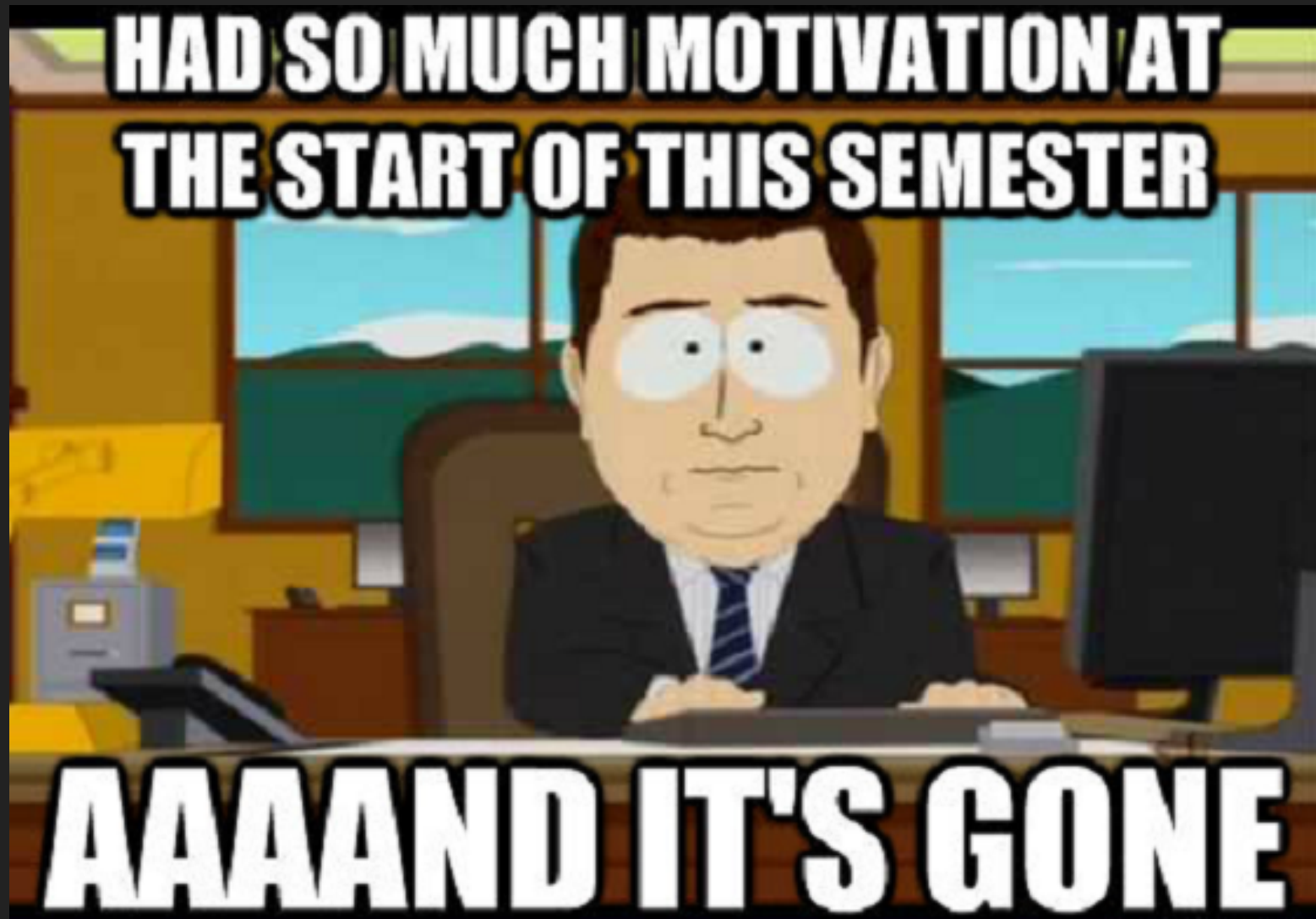


However, coding is hard.



**It takes time to get good at coding.**







Further reading: [There's no such thing as bad code](#)



**There are NO STUPID QUESTIONS**

or stupid answers



but you can ask questions in a smart way

Further Reading: [The XY Problem](#),  
[How do I ask a good question?](#),  
[How To Ask Questions The Smart Way](#)

# What If I need to..?

- figure out how to sort a list of numbers?
- understand a warning/error/alert, aka. *debug*
- find the solutions to XXX?
- hack my router?
- ...?





# More on How to Succeed in this Course

- Do not take the “*couch potato*” approach
- Think of my code as one of the “answers”
- You need to code by yourself
  - This force you to think in certain ways and ask specific questions
- After you’ve attempted it yourself, look at my code and think about what you were missing and why



# More on How to Succeed in this Course

- People *new* to programming don't know what it is like to be a programmer, or to take a programming course
- If you expect things to work the *first time*, you don't have a good sense of what it is really like
- **Don't give up** at the *first sign of error*
- **EXPECT**: to spend hours, entire nights, even multiple days getting things to work
- This is where the **REAL LEARNING** happens
- Being spoon-fed answers leads to *WEAK* problem solving abilities.

# Questions?

Now, prepare to get your hands dirty!

