Common Questions and their answers:

This document will be updated as required. If an update happens during a course, it will be announced.

The written documents taken precedence over the videos. It is time consuming to create the videos. Small improvements and/or error corrections are easily incorporated into a written document, while it takes up significant amounts of time to update a video. Videos will be replaced if they get too much out-of-date or if changes to the materials are made. But: the small corrections / adjustments will be made in the written documents as soon as I'm aware of the need. Hence, the written documents will always be more up-to-date and should be considered more accurate.

Some terms, constructs and statements are talked about early on without a lot of explanation. There will be enough explanation to understand the *principal* meaning. In order to appreciate the details, more foundation is required. The more detailed exploration of these concepts will come in due time. Some of the concepts are mentioned often, so that you hear them a few times and get a context for these before we explore them in detail. Recognizing the context helps creating perspective when the explanation comes. This helps minimizing confusion. Also, the context helps create a pattern, that then materializes with the detailed explanation. Always remember, that there is a concept and plan for the whole course!

In the first week we use a simple text editor plus the terminal. In the second week we use python's own IDLE. From week three on we use spyder. We use anaconda as python distribution. While I'm a strong proponent of everybody choose what they like and prefer, experience teaches that in a classroom setting a standard is more called for. I'm using anaconda, as it creates the same environment for Mac, Linux and Windows computers and it comes with everything we need and then some. We start in the first two weeks with the tools that are available in a minimal installation environment so that you have seen these tools and know them for a fallback if you're in a pinch.

Please, **do not pay for software**. First, this course is created so that no cost besides the textbook will be incurred. Second, there are no cost high quality solutions for most everything you'll need to learn programming, especially with python.

There are a lot of capabilities we are not even mentioning within python and its ecosystem. **Remember, this is an Introduction to Programming Course**, and we are using python as a tool to accomplish this. There is a lot of "un-pythonic" syntax in these materials, but that again is by design to expose you to some of the more frequent used philosophies in the programming world and NOT limit it to programming with python. I'd say the 9-month certificate program is a good introduction to python, but basically only scratches the surface. To give you a perspective: pypi.org is the largest python module index. It has over 210 thousand python modules that you can install. And this is not the only index.

Speaking of pypi: A word of warning: As we are using the **anaconda distribution**, please **do not install** and modules **using pip**! (You will recognize this if you come across this, no need for details yet). Anaconda uses the conda package manager which keeps its own database on your computer. Pip installs are not registered in this database. All the dependencies are stored in this database. A pip install can create all kinds of fun situations on a conda maintained system. Believe me, I have spent days cleaning these problems up.

How to compress folders on a MAC without DS_Stores files: [full article at: https://thewebsitedev.com/compress-folders-mac-ds_store-files/]. When compressing folders on a MAC in finder, MacOS adds two hidden folders. You want to avoid having this information in the submission of your project. As we consider the assignments to be same as projects, MacOS users need a way to exclude these files form the zip archive: the __MACOSX folders only gets added by finder. To exclude the .DS_Store folder, compress the folder on the command line. cd into your class folder and use the command zip -r Assignment_XX.zip Assignment_XX -x "*.DS_Store"

How to start IDLE3 on a Mac:

On a Mac, the idle command at the terminal command prompt starts the IDLE that comes with the system python 2.7.X installed. In order to start the IDLE that comes with the anaconda installation, use the following command:

```
/Users/<UserName>/opt/anaconda3/bin/idle3
```

Replace <UserName> with your actual user name.