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IT FDN 110
Assignment 08 - Report
[Github Link](#)

What I Learned

Coming into this course, I had some experience with Python and MEL, and more experience with configs and source control, but my experience with programming languages was pretty scattered or learned on the job rather than through structured education. What I learned specifically in regards to foundational knowledge for Python is exactly what I was hoping for in order to leave with a much more solid foundation for the language. It gives me the step I need to continue learning on my own and continue to the Python certification courses. I've learned a lot about the foundational syntax for Python code, how to work with external files, how to debug and test programs, how to write robust error handling, how to organize and group code into modules for separations of concern, and what constitutes clean, modular, and reusable code.

I enjoyed the self-motivated nature of the course where a lot of learning happens independently and benefited a lot by learning through structured modules, the provided feedback, and established expectations for code. It's very useful to have someone review my code and provide direct feedback for how to improve it.

I found that the custom video demos and labs were some of the most useful learning tools. Sometimes, I ignored provided demo files in favor of experimenting on my own with these videos. We built on the same program a lot, the iteration of which was fantastic for a larger program, and always had starter files for demos and labs, so sometimes I wanted more of a challenge to tell how well I was internalizing a concept. Some of the "extra reading" pages had sites with small tests like needing to read through someone's unrelated code and explain what it does or give a small code prompt / test to ask you to write or fill in that code for a ~20 line script. These were surprisingly helpful every time I came across them because they tested my understanding of the language structure and helped me to know how well I'd internalized the lesson broadly for use outside of our familiar student / gpa / course examples.

Overall, the course exceeded my expectations in terms of what I was hoping to learn in Python, how much I'd enjoy taking it, and how I'd do in an official programming class. I'm excited to keep going and learn more about Python so that I can implement it back into my own work to write tooling for artists using Autodesk software. I've already got some fun ideas, so what I've learned is immediately applicable and I'll be working on that until the next course!