# Course Manual
## Coding the Humanities
(Course catalog # 118211026Y)

Semester 1, Block III, 2017/2018
version 0.1 January

# 1 Content and learning objectives

## 1.1 Course content

Even though researchers in the humanities increasingly rely on technology to guide and structure their work, they have shown reluctance to engage with computers through coding: all too often scholars apply prefabricated and inappropriate, tools.
Coding skills, therefore, are needed more than ever: they enable scholars to develop the appropriate tools and methods for processing and analysing (big) data.
This course teaches basic Python skills with goal of:

1. helping students and researchers to understand the various technologically mediated objects that they are studying;
2. developing custom tools, rather than using ready-made ones, which can improve the actual practice of humanities research as well as (the quantity and quality) of its output.

The course introduces the principal Python types and operations and covers useful extensions that deal with data analysis (Pandas) and language processing (Natural Language Toolkit).

After completing this course the student is able to:

- apply knowledge of basic programming building blocks that carry over to almost all programming languages;
- display insight in technological aspects of humanities research;
- apply skills in analysing humanities questions and material from a coding perspective.

## 1.2 Study load and time required

The course load is 6 EC, in Semester 1, block III. There are 6 hours of class room activity during the first three weeks in block III.

## 1.3 Feedback

Assignments will be graded and discussed either in class or in individual feedback. On request, there is the option to have further discussion of the results and motivation of the grades.

## 1.4 Course week by week

**Lecture 1 (08/01/2018): A gentle introduction to Python (I)**

- Installing the Jupyter Notebook
- Opening Notebook files and manipulating content
- Introduction to Python
    - Variables, Values
    - String manipulation, indexing, slicing

**Lecture 2 (10/01/2018): A gentle introduction to Python (II)**

- Container objects: lists and dictionaries
- Conditions and loops
- Building larger programs

**Lecture 3 (15/01/2018): Distant Reading (I)**

- Reading and writing Files
- Writing functions
- Basic text processing

**Lecture 4 (17/01/2018): Distant Reading (II)**

- Natural Language Processing with NLTK
- Collecting information from the Web (Scraping, APIs)

**Lecture 5 (22/01/2018): Network Analysis**

- Network Analysis:
    - Lexical networks
    - Social Networks
- Visualization: Geographic exploration of the text data

**Lecture 6 (24/01/2018): Machine Learning Basics**

- An introduction to machine learning

## 1.5 Evaluation

All courses will be evaluated one week before the end of the semester and/or block. The aim of this evaluation is to improve the courses for future students. Usually, the evaluation will be done electronically. Students receive a mail with the request to fill in an online evaluation form. The evaluation is anonymous. The password indicated in the e-mail cannot be traced to an individual person or e-mail address. Additionally teachers can evaluate the course with their students.

If the number of students in the course is very small, it is possible that the course will be evaluated just by the teacher, because the response to an online evaluation will be to low to draw conclusions from the answers. The evaluation results will be discussed by the Board of Studies. If you have any remarks regarding your course that you can't submit via the evaluation form, please send an email to your Board of Studies (go to www.student.uva.nl search your own program, in A-Z go to Board of Studies).

# 2 Examinations

## 2.1 Access to Examinations

Registration for exams or retakes of exams is not possible. Placement in a course means automatically registration for the first exams.
Participation to the retake can be restricted (see: Assessment Regulations).
Students, complying with the prerequisites for access to resit, will be registered automatically.
Note: it is the last grade that counts, in case of participation to a resit.
Resitting after having passed:

- If a student resits an exam that he or she has already passed, the most recent grade counts.
- Bachelor's and Master's theses as well as internships may not be retaken if they were originally graded with a pass.
- For every 60 credits of a study programme, students may resit one examination that they originally passed.
- Students wishing to resit examinations that they originally passed must submit a written request to that effect to both the lecturer concerned and the Examinations Board in good time.
- In principle, examinations that were originally graded with a pass are resat in accordance with the same rules as resitting examinations that were failed, as specified in the course manual. Papers that were originally graded with a pass may be redone only if they are completely rewritten. In the event the rules for resitting an examination that was failed do not provide sufficient clarity regarding resitting examinations that were graded with a pass, the Examinations Board will decide on the form and content of the resit.
- In the case of compensatory tests within a course component or group of course components where the student's average result is a fail, the student is not permitted to try to improve this grade by resitting a component test or course component that he or she originally passed.

## 2.2 Opportunity for questions

There is time before or after each lecture to ask individual questions. Because this is a tutorial, moments for individual feedback will be scheduled after week 4.

## 2.3 Arrangements for special circumstances

If you risk running a delay of more than a month because of sickness, exceptional circumstances or any other reason outside of your control, please notify and register your study delay with your study adviser as soon as possible (at the latest within) within three months (more information: go to www.student.uva.nl search your own programme; go to A-Z; search for Study advisers.
For more information about studying with a disability or chronic illness: go to www.student.uva.nl search your own programme, in A-Z go to Disability or chronic illness.

## 2.4 Assessment regulations

### 2.4.1 Forms of assessment

There are two graded group assignments.

### 2.4.2 Assessment Components

Assignment # 1: Reflecting on Coding the Humanities
Assignment # 2: Coding Project

### 2.4.3 Requirements to complete the course

The final grade should 5,5 or higher to complete the course successfully. The final grade consists of the weighted average of the individual assignments.

### 2.4.4 Assessment weighting and calculation of the final mark

To obtain a final mark the following assignments must be completed

40% Assignment # 1: Reflecting on Coding the Humanities
60% Assignment # 2: Coding Project

The partial marks will be round off to whole or halve grades (e.g. 6,5 of 7,0); final marks will be round down to 1 decimal. In case the calculation of the final mark comes to a mark between 5,1 and 5,9, the final mark will be round off one more time: 5,1—5,4 = 5; 5,5—5,9 = 6.

### 2.4.5 Form of and prerequisites for access to resits

For students failing to pass the course, there is a resit exam consisting of a take home exam based on some or all of the material of the course.

### 2.4.6 Validity period of interim results

Partial results are only valid for the current year. If a student fails to complete and re-enrolls the next year, she can discuss with the lecturers whether some partial results can be transferred on a case by case basis.

### 2.4.7 Language for the separate assignments

Course language is English.

## 2.5 More detail on assessments

Detailed instructions for the assignments will follow in separate documents.

## 2.6 Deadlines

Deadlines of the weekly assignments will follow in separate documents

## 2.7. Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA

The rules laid down in the ``Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA'' are part of the examination in this course. The Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students can be found on the website: www.student.uva.nl search your own programme, in A-Z go to Plagiarism and fraud - general.

## 2.8 Option for appeal

To dispute an examination result students must, after consultation with the teacher, contact the course co-ordinator (see: UvA Course Catalogue). To dispute the verdict of the course co-coordinator, the student must contact the Examination Board. In the letter the student must motivate his/her complain. It is not enough to ask for a second opinion or to write that you think you earn a higher grade. For more information about the Examination Boards: go to www.student.uva.nl search your own programme, in A-Z go to Examinations Board.
If you disagree with a decision made by the Examinations Board you have six weeks from the date of the decision in which to file an appeal with the Examination Appeals Board. For more information about the Examination Appeals Board and other : go to www.student.uva.nl search your own programme, in A-Z go to Complaints, objections and appeals - general.

# 3. Staff and contact

Kaspar Beelen
Turfdraagsterpad 9
BG1, Room 1.03
k.beelen@uva.nl
Office hours by appointment