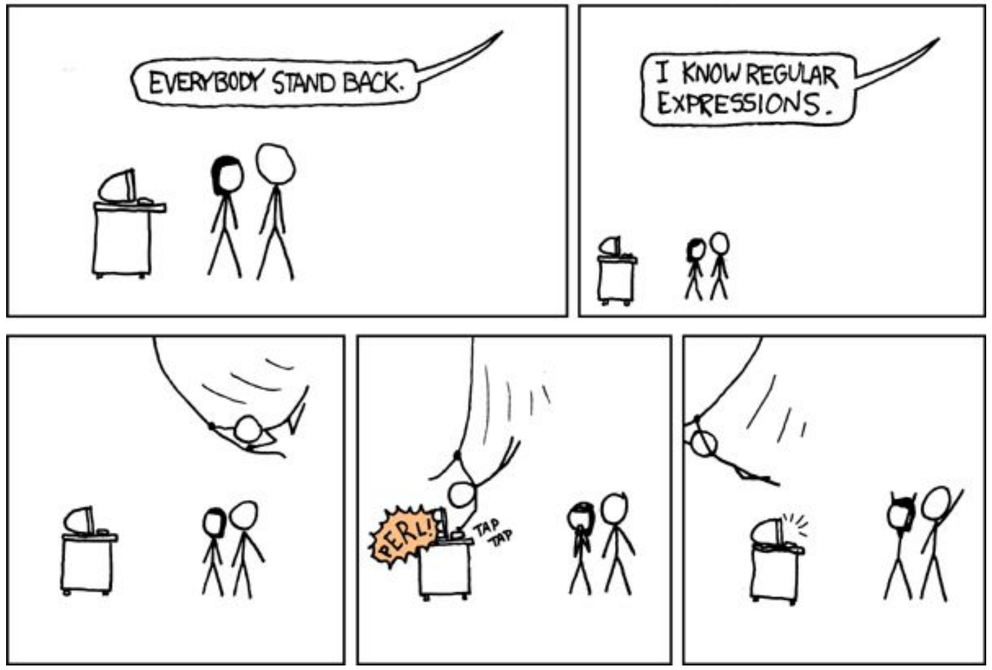
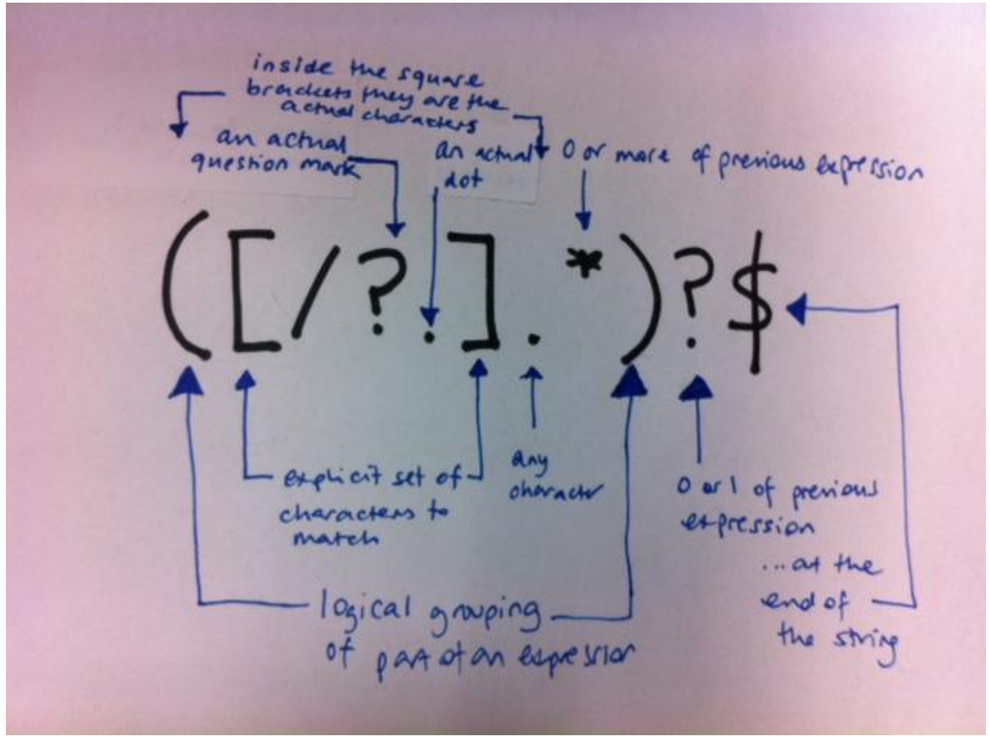
Intro & Regular Expressions

Spring 2025, Week 1
January 17, 2025





Check-in, intros

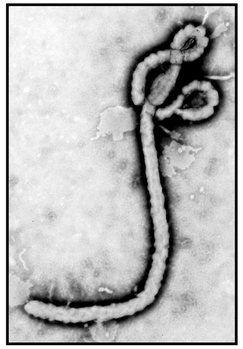
PhD - Evolutionary genetics

HOPKINS
MARINE STATION
OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY

PostDoc - Pathogen genomics

USAMRIID
United States Army
Medical Research Institute
of Infectious Diseases

Biodefense solutions to protect our nation



PATHOGEN & MICROBIOME INSTITUTE
NAU & TGen

Associate Professor
Dept of Biological Sciences
Pathogen and Microbiome Institute

Intros

1. Your name (Optional: pronouns)
2. Check-in
3. Your research focus
4. A data processing/analysis challenge

Outline

- Course organization
- Plain text files
- Regular expressions

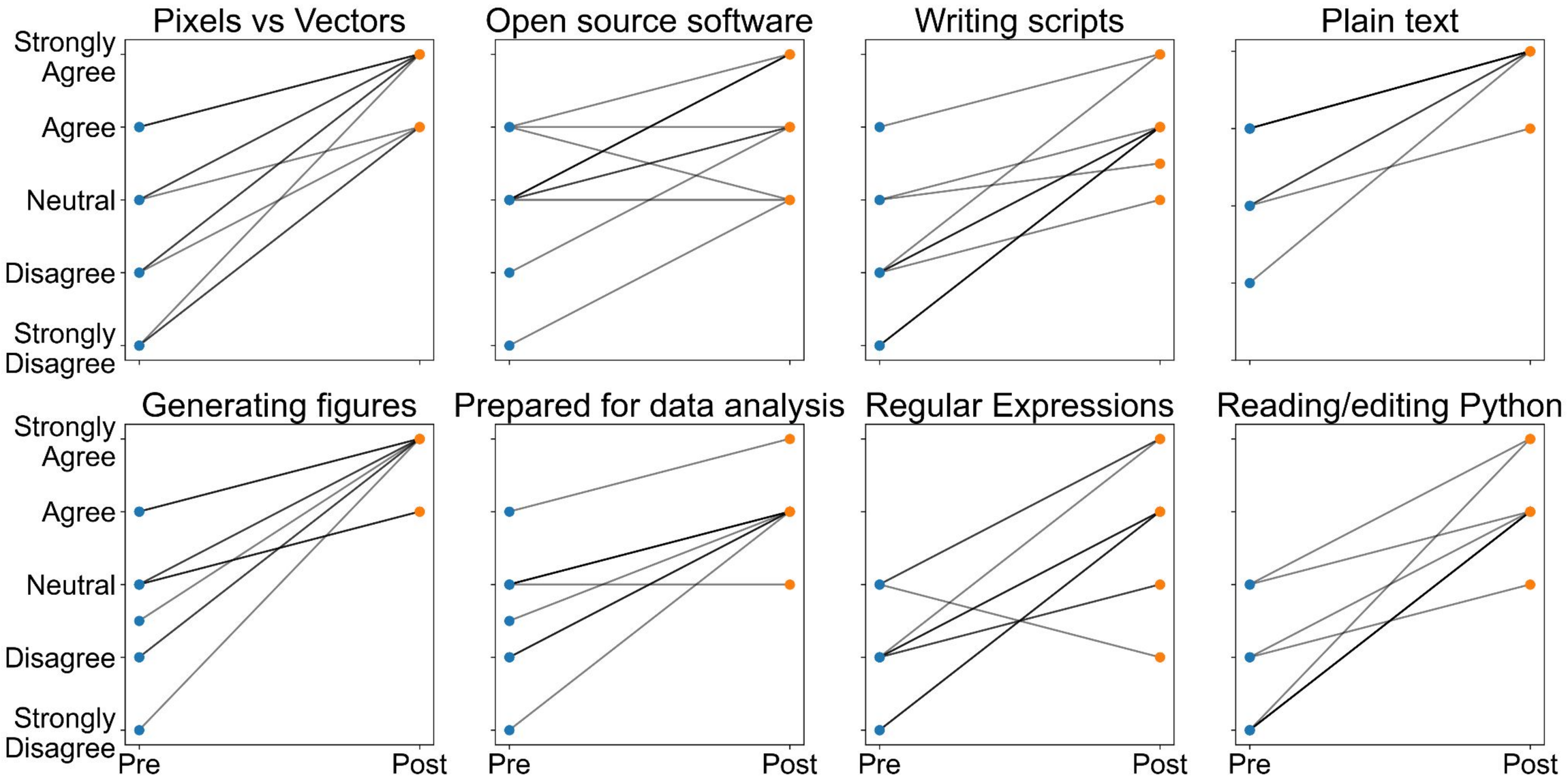
Course organization

What this course is: Intro to general computing techniques broadly applicable to many research-related tasks

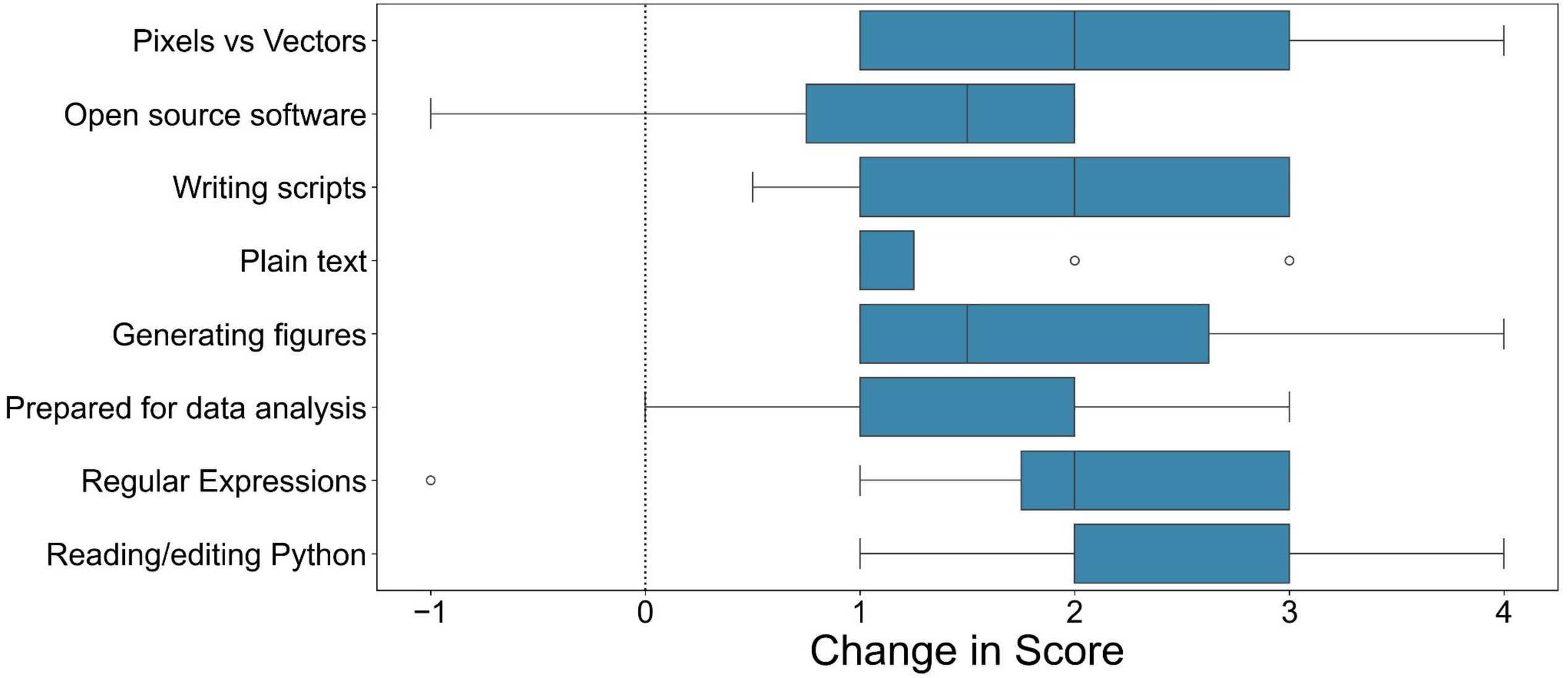
What it isn't: A bioinformatics class

Goal: Introduce a variety of potentially useful tools

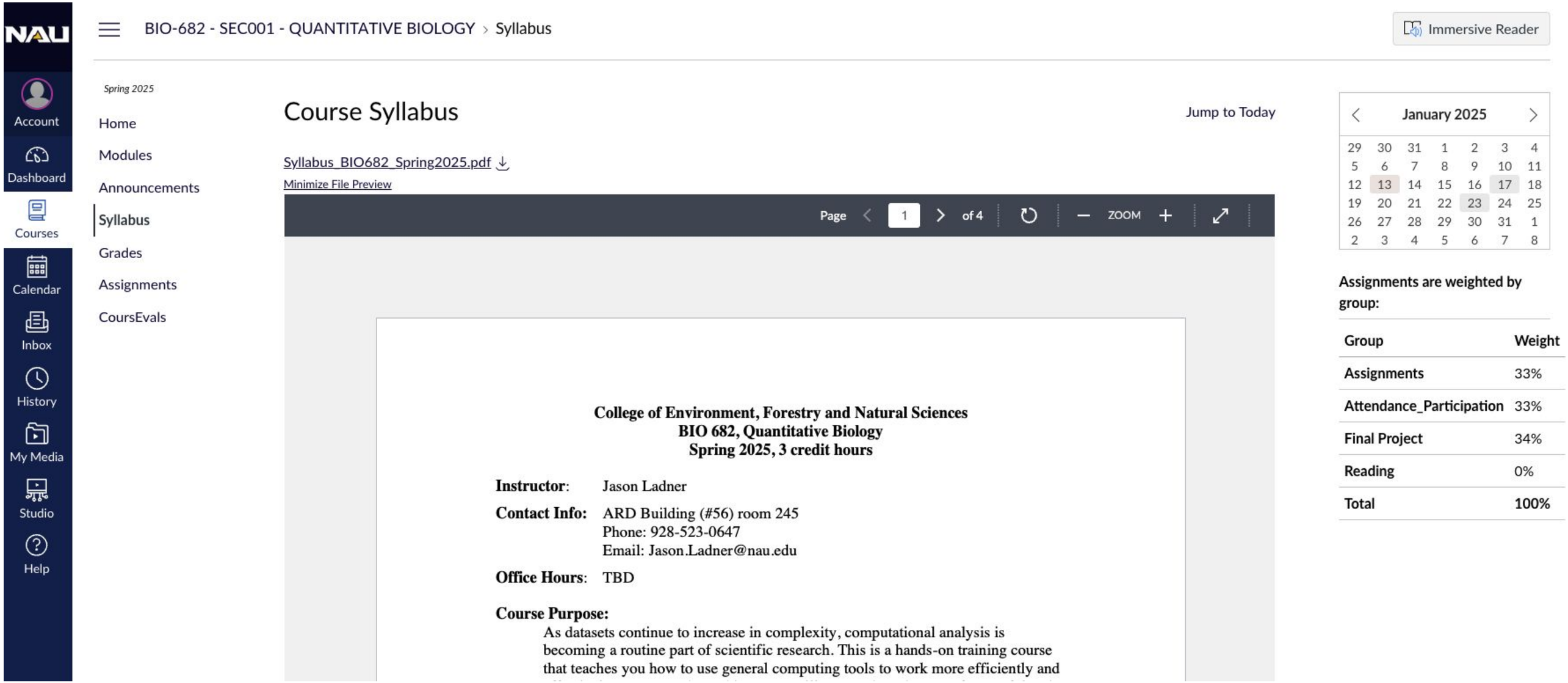
2024 Assessment Results



2024 Assessment Results



Syllabus on Canvas



Required text

- Haddock, S. H. D. and Dunn, C. W. (2010). Practical Computing for Biologists. Sinauer Associates
- http://practicalcomputing.org/
- Reading must be complete **PRIOR** to class

Class organization

New Content
(First 11 weeks)

- Lectures
- Demos
- In class work time (homework assignments)

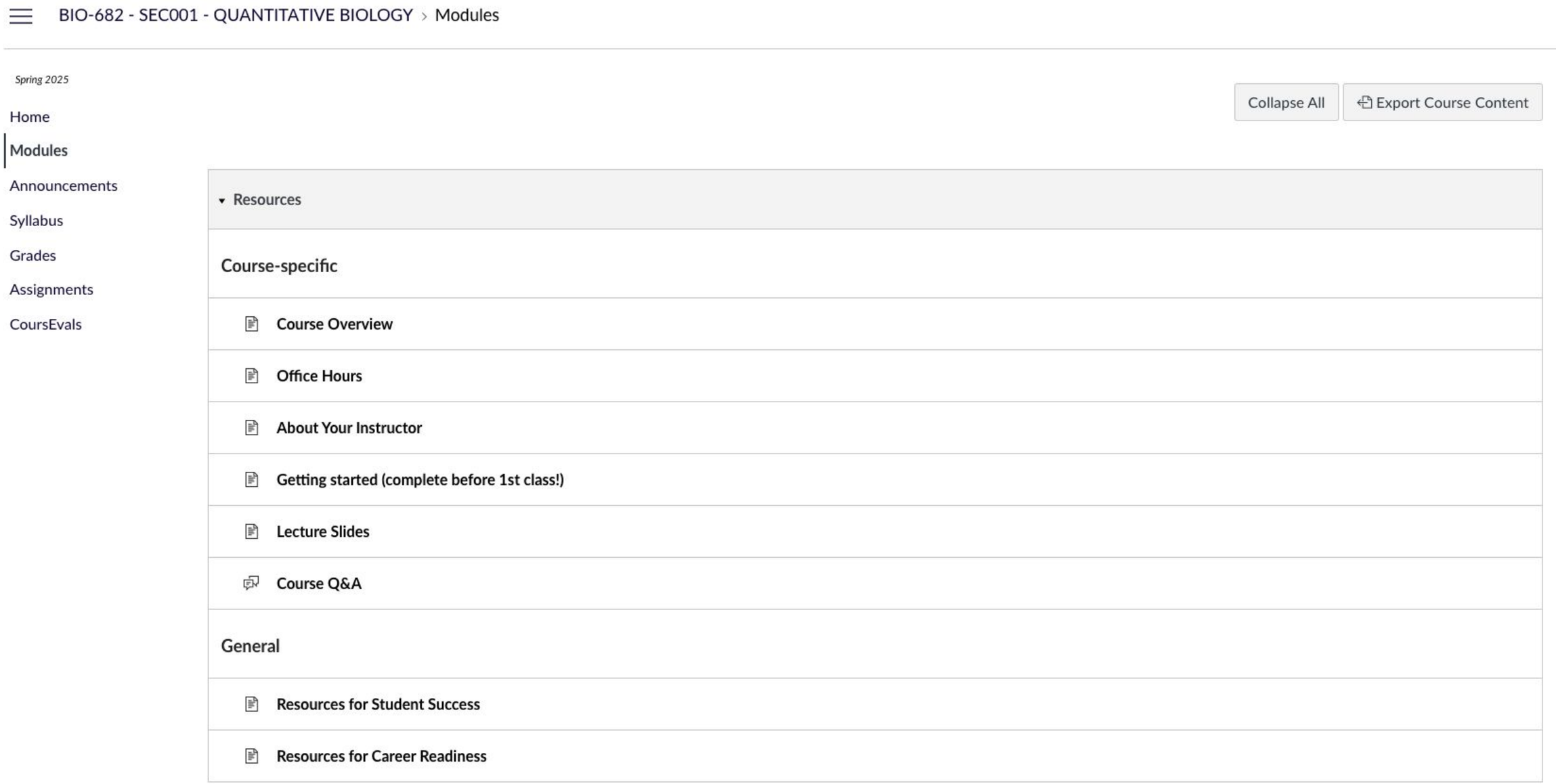
Individual projects
(Last 4 weeks)

- Individual coding projects
- Topic of your choice
- 2 work weeks
- 2 weeks for presentations

Assignments

- One assignment per week (weeks 1-11)
- Focus on hands-on time in class (may need to complete outside of class)
- Always due by 11:59 pm on Thursday
- Can submit 1 revision per assignment

Modules page in Canvas



Links to Lecture Slides

Lecture Slides

Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

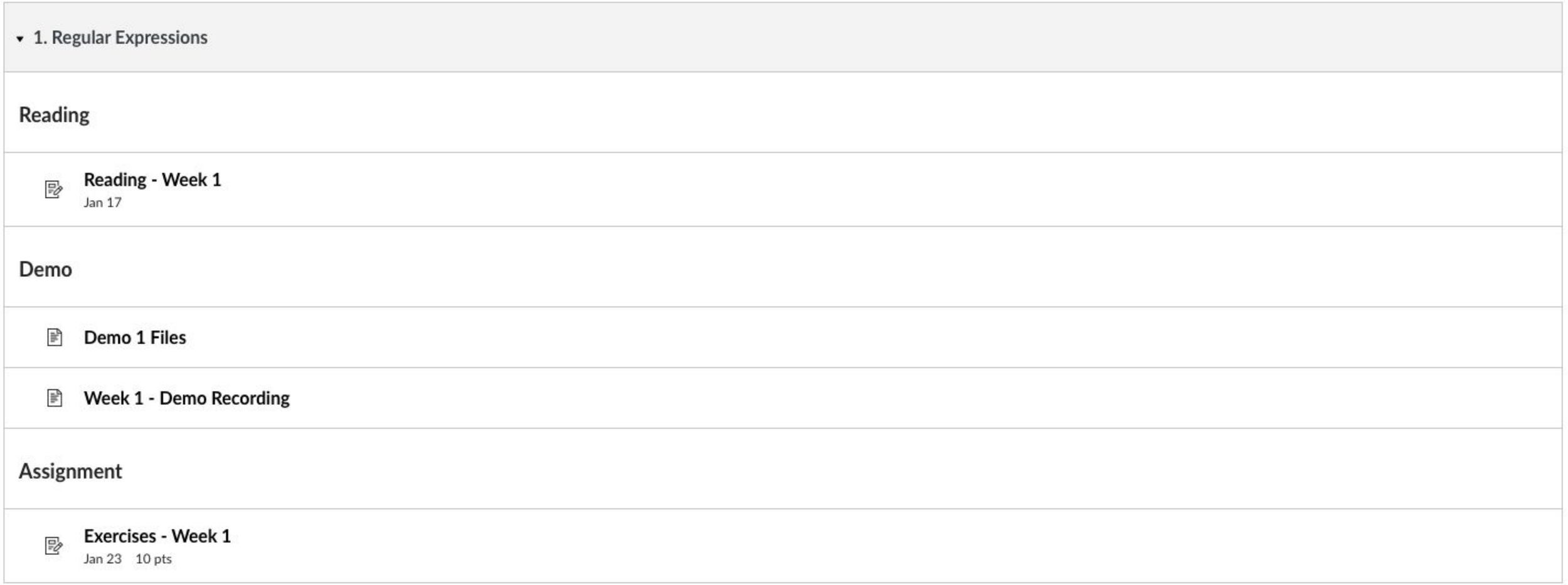
Week 8

Week 9

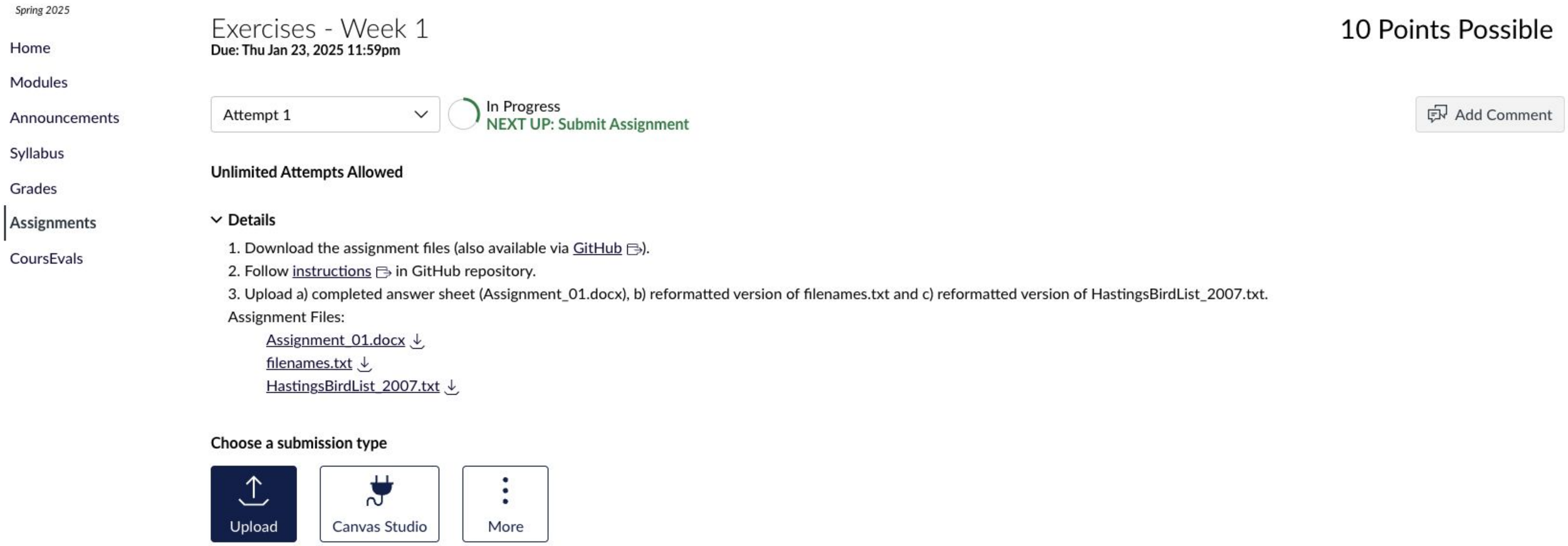
Week 10

Week 11

Access assignments via Modules



Assignments submitted via Canvas



Files

main

Go to file t

- Getting Started
- Week01_Intro_RegExp
  - Assignment
  - Demo
  - Assignment_01.docx
  - readme.md
- .DS_Store
- LICENSE
- README.md
- macOS.gitignore

BIO682_Spring2025 / Week01_Intro_RegExp /

Add file

jtladner Update readme.md 0214765 · now History

Name	Last commit message	Last commit date
..		
Assignment	Initial Setup	last week
Demo	Initial Setup	last week
Assignment_01.docx	Initial Setup	last week
readme.md	Update readme.md	now

readme.md

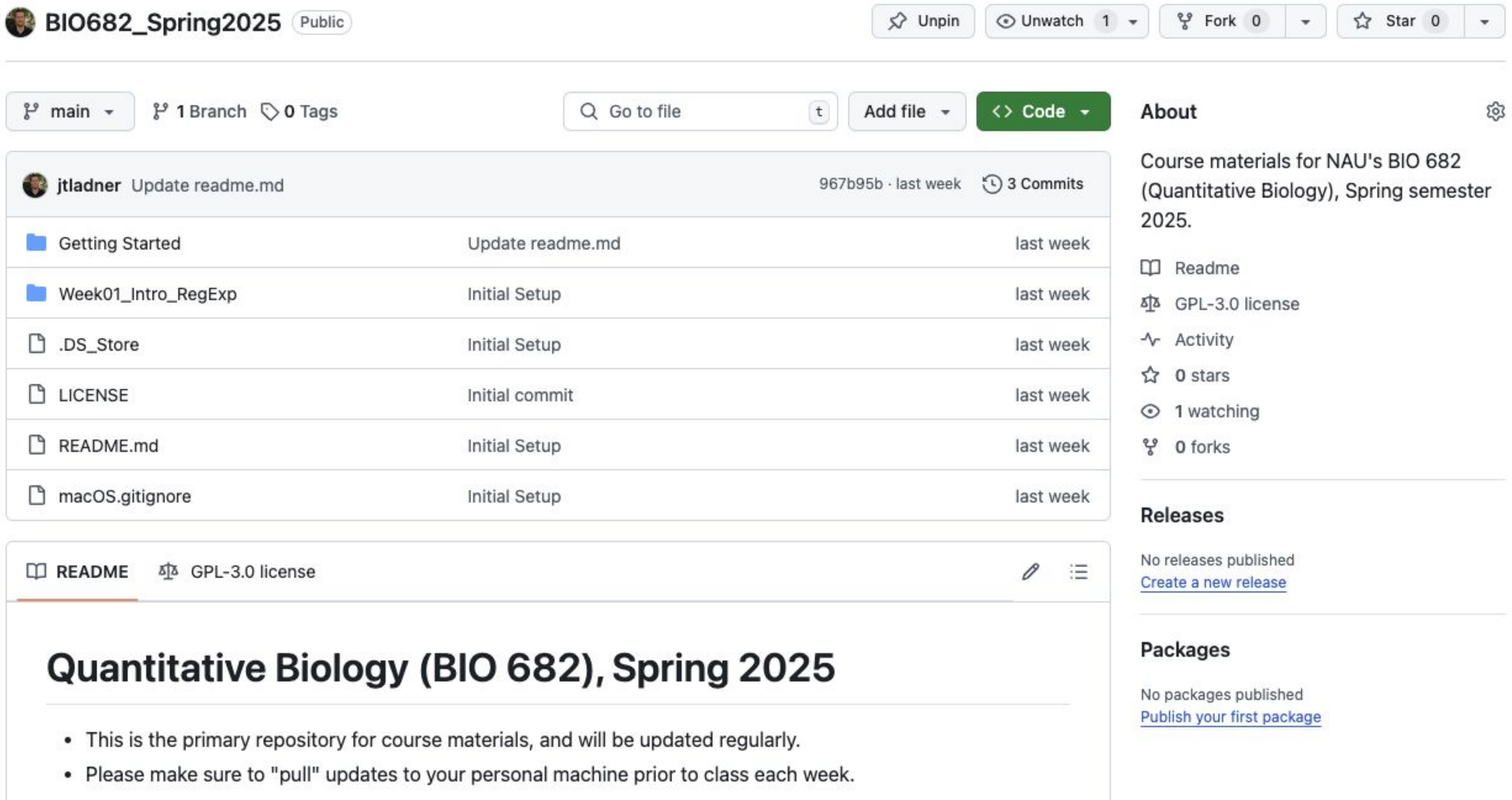
Class 1 - Jan. 17th 2025

- In this first class we will:
  - Discuss the syllabus and course organization/expectations
  - Troubleshoot computer setup problems
  - Learn to use regular expressions to edit plain text files

Required Reading (Must be completed ahead of time)

Practical Computing for Biologists, Chapters 1-3

Materials will be continually added to repository



“Pulling” GitHub updates

Windows users: maintain 2 copies of the repository

Windows

Course Repo #1

Ubuntu

Course Repo #2

Grading

- Assignments (33%)
- Attendance/Participation (33%)
- Final Project/Presentation (34%)

Final project - deadlines

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/17	Intro, Setup & Regular Expressions	PCfB: Ch. 1-3
2	1/24	The Shell - Part 1	PCfB: Ch. 4-5
3	1/31	The Shell - Part 2	PCfB: Ch. 6, 21
4	2/7	Python Programming - Part 1	PCfB: Ch. 7-8 Jupyter Tutorial
5	2/14	Python Programming - Part 2	PCfB: Ch. 9
6	2/21	Python Programming - Part 3	PCfB: Ch. 10-11
7	2/28	Python Programming - Part 4	PCfB: Ch. 12
8	3/7	Python Programming - Part 4	PCfB: Ch. 13-14
9	3/21	Graphical concepts: vectors vs. pixels	PCfB: Ch. 17-19
10	3/28	Making Figures in Python - Part 1 (*Project proposal due)	Matplotlib overview
11	4/4	Making Figures in Python - Part 2	
12	4/11	Work/Troubleshoot Day #1	
13	4/18	Work/Troubleshoot Day #2	
14	4/25	Project Presentations - Part 1	
15	5/2	Project Presentations - Part 2	
Finals	5/7	*Final project due	

Computer setup

- Text Editor
- Command line terminal
- GitHub Repository

https://github.com/jtladner/BIO682_Spring2025/tree/main/Getting%20Started

Plain text files

Plain text file

- Pure sequence of character codes
- No formatting (e.g., text size, color, font, spacing)
- Human and machine readable
- Standardized

Which of these formats are NOT plain text?

Excel (.xlsx)

html

OpenOffice (.odf)

Google Sheet

text (.txt)

fasta

markdown

xml

Google Doc

nexus

json

Word (.doc)

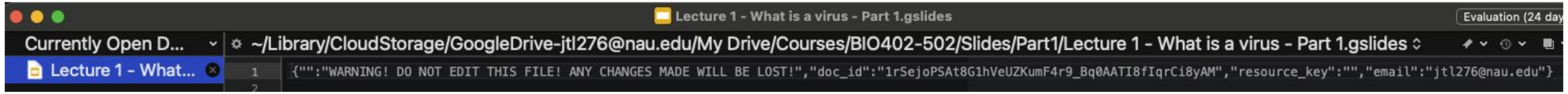
rich text (.rtf)

python script (.py)

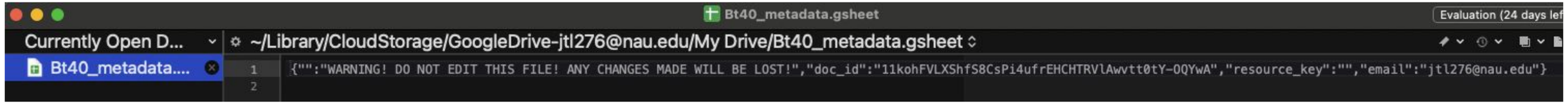
tab-separated (.tsv)

Viewing non-plain text in text editor

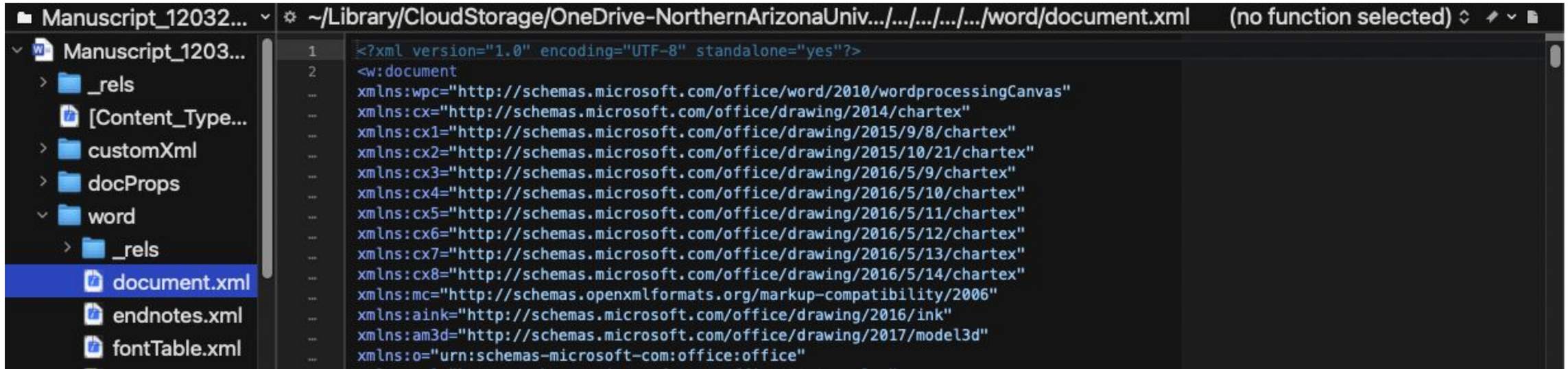
Google Slides



Google Sheet



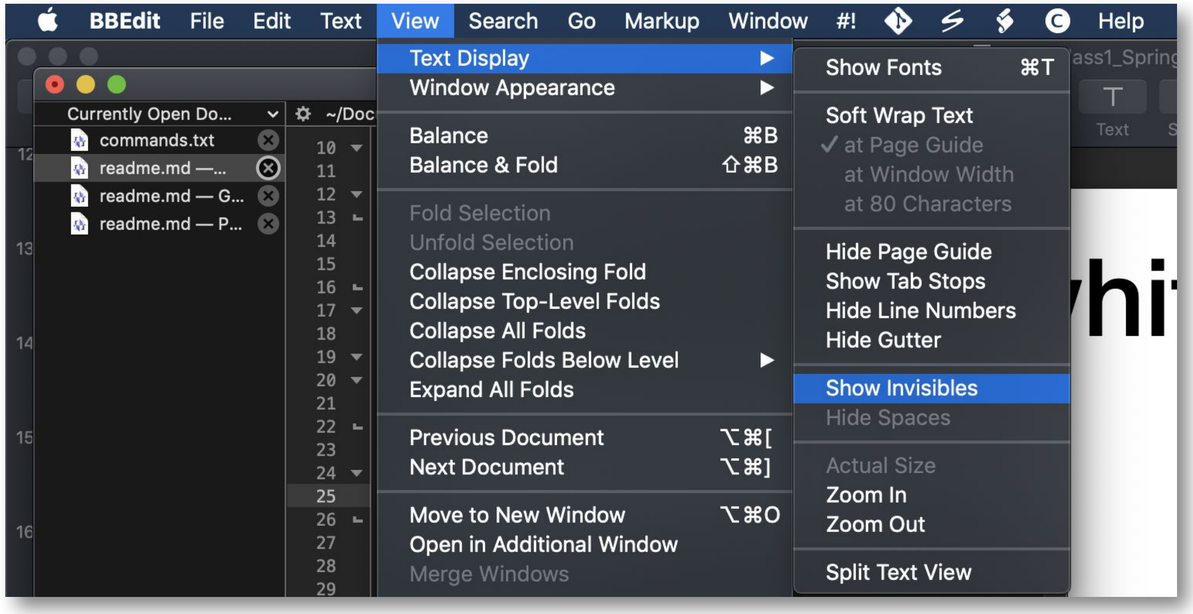
Word Doc

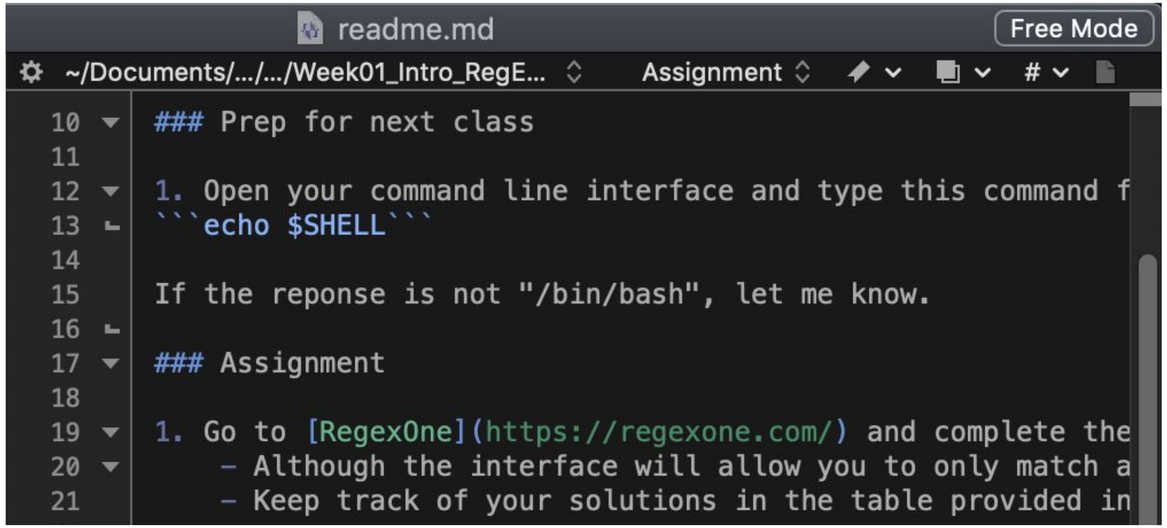


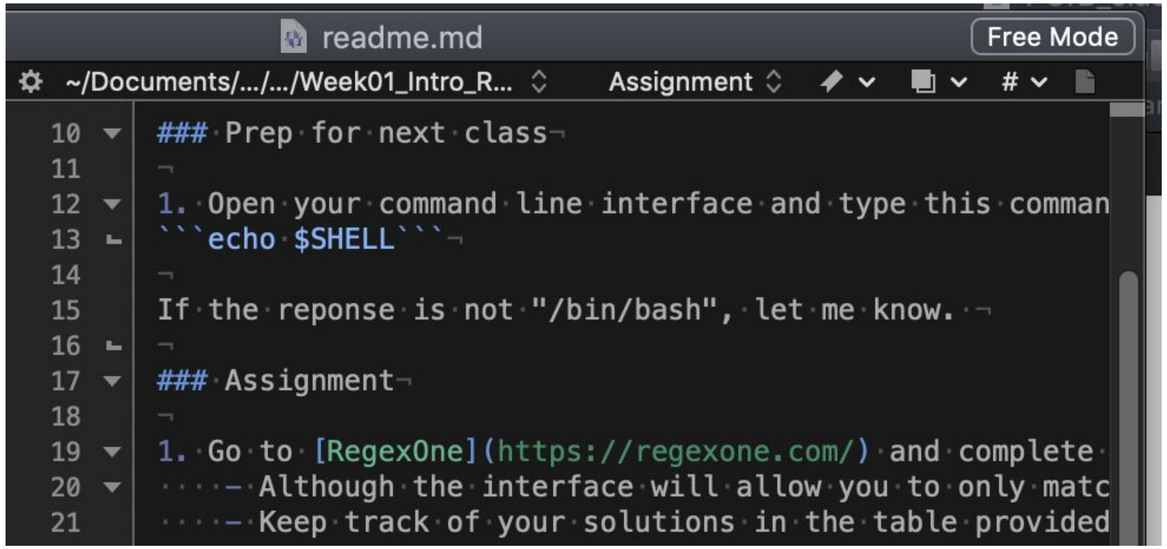
Whitespace

- Space
- Tab
- End of line

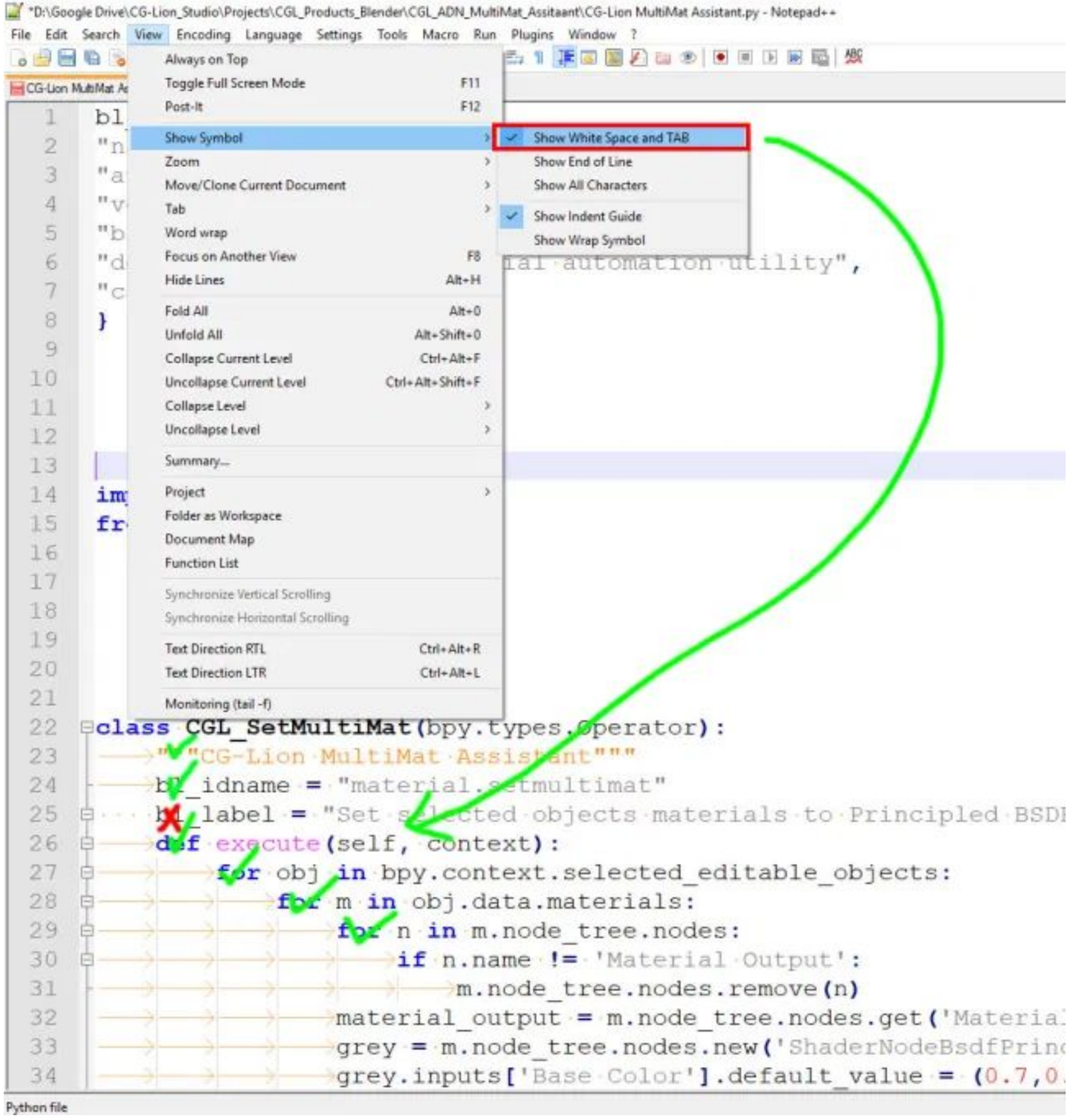
Visualizing white space (BBEdit)



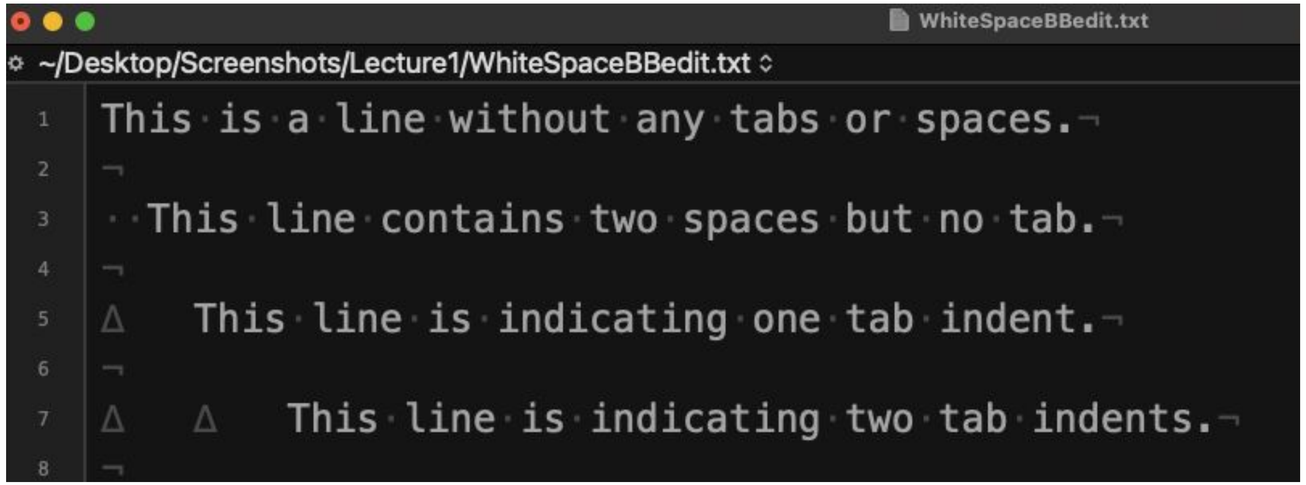




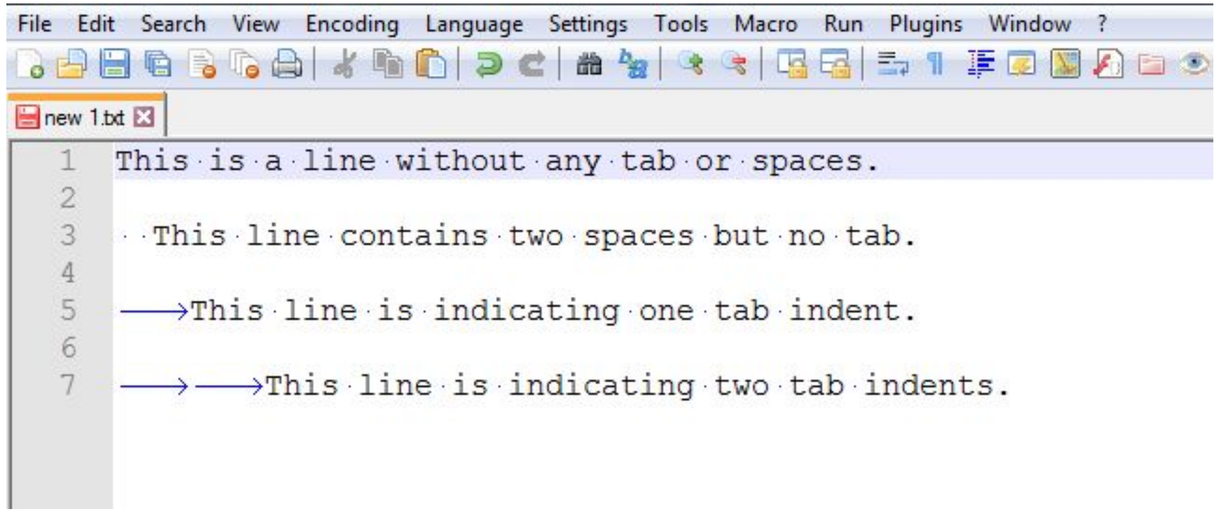
Visualizing white space (Notepad++)

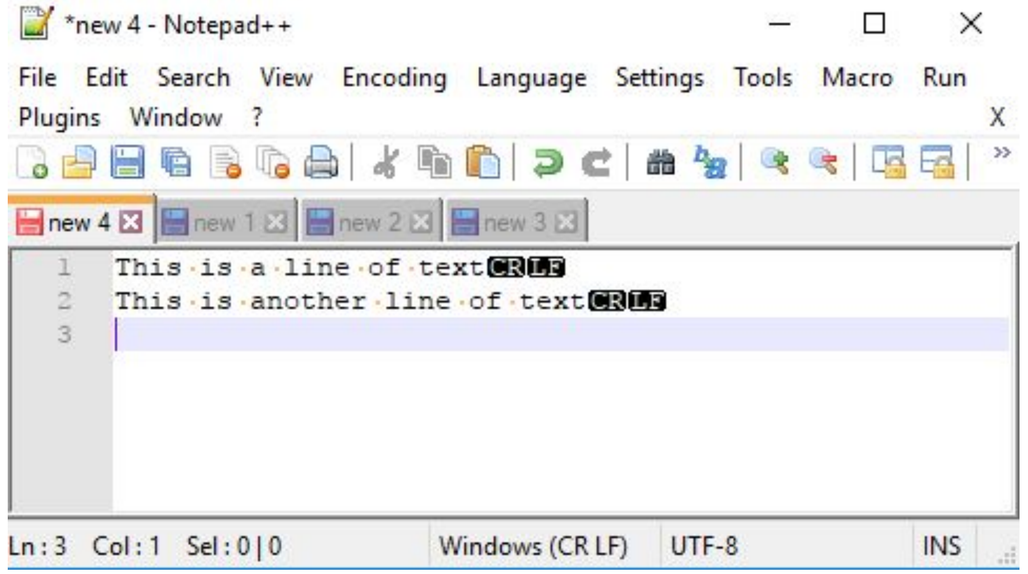


BBEdit



Notepad++

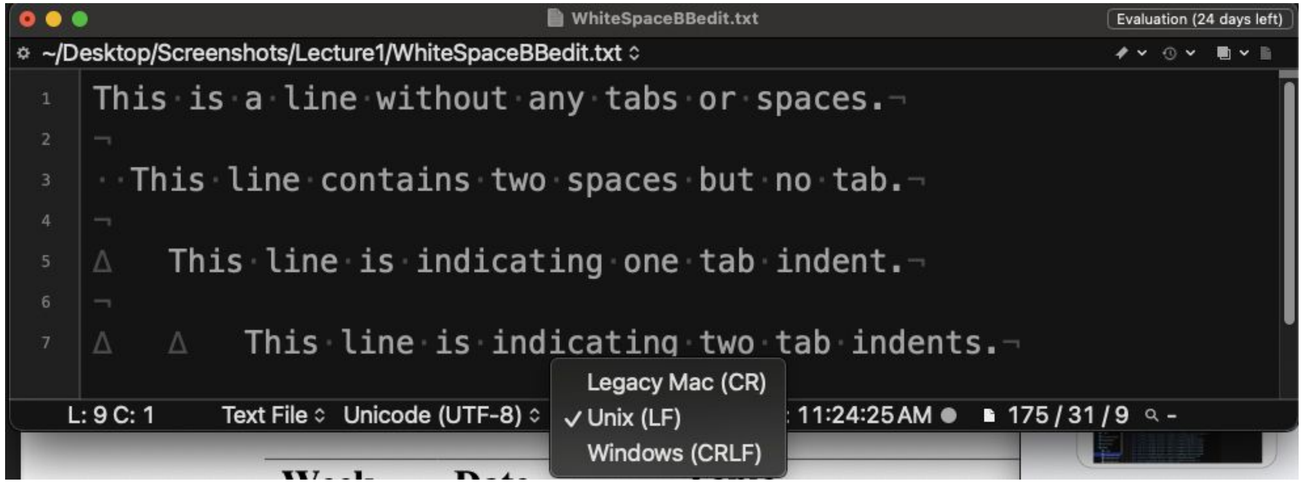




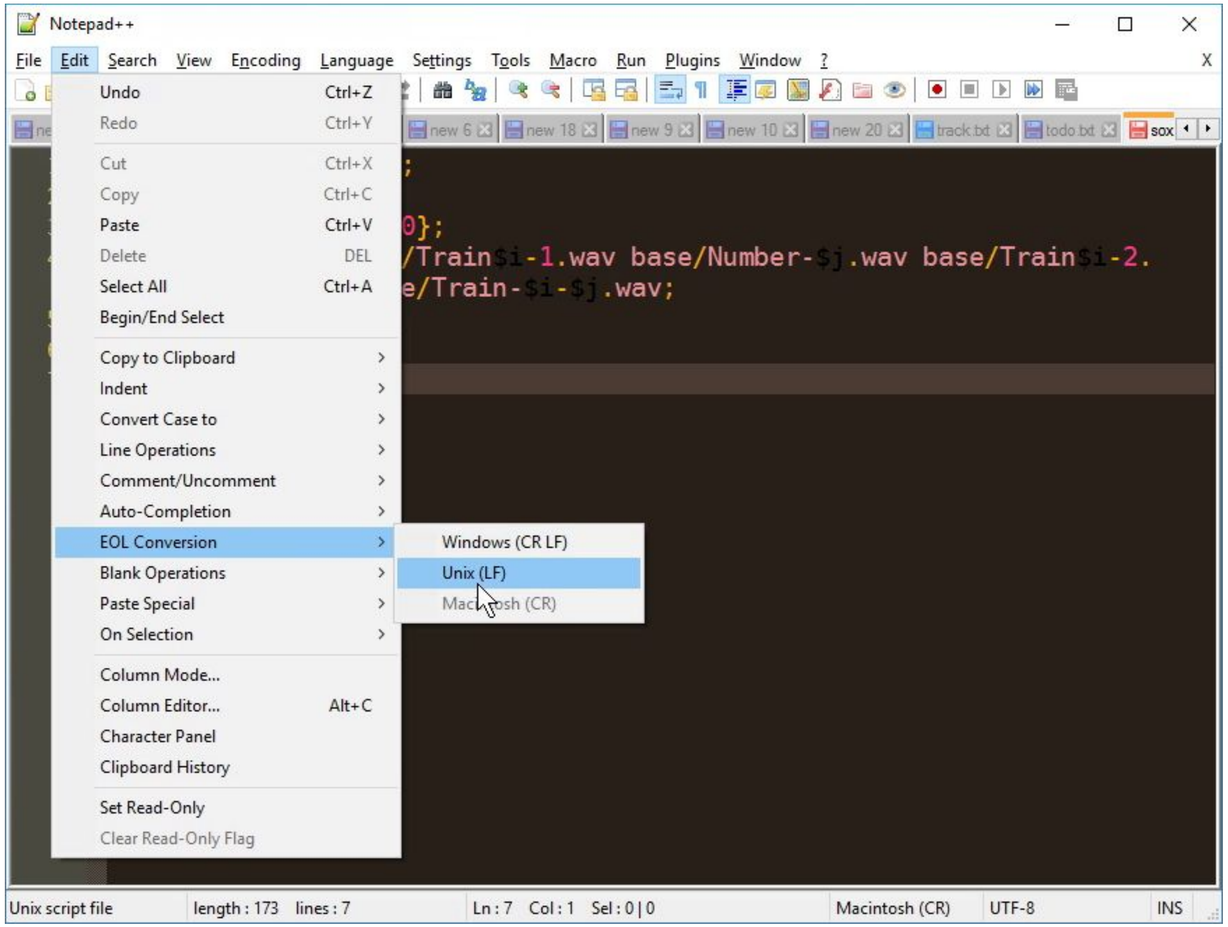
End of line characters differ by OS

- Line feed (LF) - Mac OSX, Linux
- Carriage return (CR) - Mac OS9 and earlier
- Carriage return + line feed (CRLF) - Windows

BBEdit



Notepad++



Regular expressions

Regular expressions
(a.k.a. regex, regexp)

- Powerful find and replace toolkit
- Understood by many text editors, programming languages and even search engines
- Power comes from wildcard operators

`\d`

`\w`

`\s`

`.`

```
\w+

\w*

\w?
```

[ABC]

[^ABC]

[A-C]

(ABC)

(AB)C

((AB)C)

Anchors

^

$

Tips

- Try PCfB methodology
  - copy (1 version of) target text into search dialog
  - replace text with wildcards, piece by piece
- Be as specific as possible
- Build in redundancies

Regexp reference tables

Wildcards	
`\w`	Letters, numbers and _
`.`	Any character except `\n` `\r`
`\d`	Numerical digits
`\t`	Tab
`\r`	Return character. Also used as the generic end-of-line character in TextWrangler
`\n`	Line-feed character. Also used as the generic end-of-line character in Notepad++
`\s`	Space, tab, or end of line
`[A-Z]`	A single character of the ranges indicated in square brackets
`[^A-Z]`	A single character including all characters *not* in the brackets. Note that this will include `\n` unless otherwise specified, and may cause you to match across lines
`\`	Used to escape punctuation characters so they are searched for as themselves, not interpreted as wildcards or special symbols
`\\`	The \ symbol itself, escaped
Boundaries	
`^`	Match the start of the line, i.e., the position before the first character
`$`	Match the last position before the end-of-line character

Quantifiers, used in combination with characters and wildcards	
`+`	Look for the longest possible match of one or more occurrences of the character, wildcard, or bracketed character range immediately preceding. The match will extend as far as it can while still allowing the entire expression to match.
`*`	As above, matches as many of the previous character to occur, but allows for the character not to occur at all if the match still succeeds
`?`	Modifies greediness of + or * to match the shortest possible match instead of longest
`{}`	Specify a range of numbers to repeat the match of the previous character. For example: `\d{2,4}` matches between 2 and 4 digits in a row `[AC]{4,}` matches 4 or more of the letter A or C in a row
Capturing and replacing	
`()`	Capture the search results between the parentheses for use in the replacement term
`\1` `$1`	Substitute the contents of the matched into the replacement term, in numerical order. Syntax depends on the text editor or language that you are using.

http://practicalcomputing.org/files/PCfB_Appendices.pdf