Introduction to Computing I

COSC 101 Section C

Instructor Info

Georgiana Haldeman(she/hers)

T, Th: upto 10AM F: 1-3PM,

McGregory 313A

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Course Info

T, Th

8:30-9:45AM

McGregory 315

Overview

Welcome to Introduction to Computing I! In this course, we will learn about concepts of computer science. In parallel, we will apply this conceptual knowledge in our programming practice for developing programming skills in Python.

Learning Activities

This course (lecture + lab) counts for a total of 1.25 credits. Therefore, you are expected to spend roughly 12.5 hours/week on this course (on average). This time should be allocated across various learning activities.

Textbook readings and exercises ($\sim$ 3 hours/week)

The primary method of information delivery is the free, online, interactive textbook Foundations of Python Programming: Functions First. Before each class meeting you should read the textbook sections listed in the calendar to learn new information and prepare for active problem solving during class. You must also answer the questions and do the exercises in the textbook as you read; this will help solidify your understanding of the material. It may also be useful to review sections of the textbook when studying for exams or working on labs and homework.

Class (2.5 hours/ week)

Each class meeting will feature a mix of demonstrations, open question and answer, and active problem solving (on your own and in small groups). You are expected to attend class, respond to questions, solve problems, and respect and support your classmates. In exchange, I will strive to make class fun and engaging.

Labs (2 hours/ week)

Labs will give you additional problem solving and programming practice and help prepare you to complete the homework assignments. Your lab instructor will provide additional details on the expectations for lab.

Homework ($\sim$ 5 hours/week

Homework assignments take the concepts discussed/practiced in class and lab and pushes you to apply them to more challenging problems. There will be 8-10 homework assignments throughout the semester. Homeworks will typically be due Thursdays at 5pm and will be posted on the course website the week before.

Exams (occasionally)

There will be three midterm exams plus a final exam. The concepts in this course build on one another, so all exams will be cumulative, although they will usually emphasize concepts discussed and practiced since the last exam. The midterm exams will occur between 7 and 9 PM in Ho 101 on the following days:

- Midterm Exam 1: Thur, Sep 28
- Midterm Exam 2: Thur, Oct 19
- Midterm Exam 3: Thur, Nov 16

Please let me know in advance if you will be unable to take one of the exams on the scheduled day.

Policies

Attendance

Attendance will not be taken. However, a significant portion of class time will be spent practicing your problem solving and programming skills, so attending and participating in class is in your best interest. Experience (and research) has shown that students who regularly attend class learn more and perform better. If you miss class due to illness or other obligations, you should be sure to review the class notes and worksheet posted on the course's website and attend office hours to ask questions about topics/problems that are unclear.

Time Management and Deadlines

The concepts in this course build on one another, so once a student gets behind, it becomes increasingly harder to keep up. Good planning is essential and starting homework early is good practice. Plan to give yourself time to step away from your work and return to it later. Programming in this way works better than sitting down and trying to complete programs in one shot right before the deadline. I will be reasonably flexible on deadlines. If you need some extra time due to illness, your workload in other classes, and/or personal matters, please let me know. As long as you have made a good faith effort to complete learning activities by the original deadline, I am willing to offer a reasonable extension. I will be less willing to grant an extension if you wait to start a homework assignment until the day before it is due (when you've had a week to work on it), repeatedly ask for extensions, etc.

Collaboration and Academic Honesty

You are expected to abide by the Colgate's academic honor code. If you are struggling to complete an activity—due to a lack of understanding, time pressure, personal matters, etc.—please contact me. I want you to succeed, and I will do everything I can to help you. Violating the academic honesty expectations for the course (almost) always leads to a bad experience for you and me. If you are unsure what constitutes academic misconduct, please contact me as soon as possible. Here are some guidelines (the text below is adapted from a CS course at Berkeley):

- Obey the "No Code Rule": Never have a copy of someone else's program in your possession, and never give your program to someone else or post it where it may be available to others.
- Discussing an assignment without sharing any code is generally okay, such as helping someone to interpret an error message. Use this as a mental model: If you walk into a room with a friend, sketch out ideas on a board but erase everything, and then leave, later completing the assignment on your own, that's fine. If you can't produce the assignment from your own understanding, then you're relying inappropriately on someone else.
- TAs are available to assist and guide you, but the responsibility for completing assignments is ultimately on the student. You can ask TAs for assistance, but you shouldn't be asking for answers. You are the sole person accountable and responsible for the work you submit; blaming a TA for a mistake or that you're code is too similar to another student's code is not an acceptable excuse.

Grading Scheme

Your course grade will be determined as follows (items in a category won't necessarily be weighted equally):

15%	Reading quizzes and in-class activities
40%	Homework
30%	Midterm Exams
15%	Final Exam

Campus Resources

I also encourage you to reach out to many great resources at Colgate that can assist you with academic, personal, or other needs, including:

- Administrative Deans (https://www.colgate.edu/about/offices-centers-institutes/dean-college/administrative-advising) help you understand policies and procedures, navigate personal challenges, work with faculty, and engage with parents.
- Counseling Center (https://colgate.edu/counseling) staff are trained to help students manage a wide array of emotions. The counseling center meets with over half the student body for clinical services at some point during their four years at Colgate. You can arrange an appointment online or by phone (315-228-7385). For emergencies, a counselor is available 24/7 by calling campus safety at 315-228-7333 and asking for the counselor on call.
- Haven (https://colgate.edu/haven) is a sexual violence response center that provides confidential care, support, advocacy, and trauma-informed clinical services for survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, child/family abuse, stalking, and/or harassment. You can call (315-228-7385) or visit during business hours. You can also contact the Help Restore Hope Center (855-966-9723).
- Student Health Services (https://colgate.edu/offices-and-services/studenthealthservice) provides accessible, convenient, cost-effective, non-judgmental, and confidential care for all students.
- Information Technology Services (https://colgate.edu/its) help desk consultants assist all students with problems concerning email, Portal, Moodle, or your personal laptop. Contact me if problems with your personal computer are affecting your ability to get your work done.

- Chaplains (https://colgate.edu/campus-life/religious-life/officeofthechaplains) provide the community with a dynamic, friendly, and supportive place in which to seek answers to life's biggest questions.