CSE 6040/x
Course Introduction Session

First Tuesday of the Course

Draft version: 1/13 (will provide final update after session)

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Agenda

- Course Introduction – Professor Richard Vuduc
- Navigating the course web site, Piazza, and some important Canvas/edX module pages.
- Common Student Questions on Exams and Homework Notebooks.
- Introduction of Data Analysis in Python Bootcamp Series.

Course Materials

- Course Website (cse6040.gatech.edu/active/)
  - Home Page, Announcements, Weekly Content
  - Logistics Pages
  - Exam Information Pages (when released)
  - Exam Prep Pages (when released)
  - Bootcamp Overview (schedule linked)
  - Guides (Honorlock, testcase, troubleshooting technical issues during exam)

Locations

Course Information Overview

Section	Platform / Link	Description	Key Contents
Syllabus	Syllabus	Course aims, grading, policies, and general guidance	Policies, grading, aims, guidance
Course Schedule	Google Sheets	Master schedule with assignment due dates and weekly responsibilities	Deadlines, assignments, weekly tasks
Learning Management System (LMS)	GT: Canvas , EdX	Entry point for course materials	Course Videos, Assignments, Exams, Grades
Course Website	(Current site)	Central hub for course information	Intro to course, rules, bootcamp schedule, notebooks, exam release notes
Discussion Forums	Piazza (GT , VMM)	**Official communication and announcements**. Meeting zoom links and schedule updates for all sessions.	Announcements, TA office hours, notebooks, bootcamp links, Q&A
Bootcamp	Course Website & Piazza (GT @7 , VMM @7)	Schedule has dates and topics, with linked Colab notebooks; Live session link, recordings, and any post-session content is posted on Piazza pinned post	Schedule, Colab notebooks, recordings, updates

https://cse6040.gatech.edu/active/Logistics/1_intro_and_platforms/

Course Materials

- Piazza – Discussion Forum
  - **Only official means of course communication**
    - *For OSI-related academic violations, you will receive an email from Professor Vuduc or Chris directly**
  - Pinned Posts (Ongoing + Important)
    - Notebook Review Sessions – Thursdays, post @6.
    - Bootcamp – post @7.
    - TA Office Hours – post @8.
    - Homework Notebook Posts – All questions
  - Public and Private posts
    - We encourage students to make <u>public</u> posts, to encourage student discussion and collaboration.
    - Actual notebook code, as part of questions for TAs, must be posted privately.
    - **Order**: Pinned post -> public post -> private post
      - TAs can and probably will still reply to public posts(or thumbs up a good answer)
    - Private posts must be to **all instructors**

Course Materials

- Canvas/edX − Learning Management System ("LMS")
  - Main entry point for all assignments
    - Must access each assignment from here first
  - Where most course videos and related content are
  - Syllabus and Schedule (link to course website)
  - Common Student Questions Video
  - Introduction to Vocareum Video
  - Test Case Variables Pages -- Quiz and Videos
    - **It is not possible to emphasize enough:**
    - **HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR ALL STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT IN THESE PAGES AND VIDEOS.**
    - **YOUR SUCCESS ON EXAMS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO YOUR ABILITY TO TROUBLESHOOT YOUR CODE, USING THE TECHNIQUES PROVIDED IN THESE VIDEOS.**

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Common Student Questions

- Exam Information *(aka "Exam Rules & Policies")*
  - Exams are open note and open internet.
  - Notes in any format are acceptable (digital, paper, etc.)
  - AI tools and active collaboration during the exam **are not permitted**. See the course web site for specifics, including AI search policy.
  - The exam window is open for 5 days, generally Friday morning to Wednesday morning, Eastern Time. See the course schedule for specific dates and times.
  - Times are **listed in UTC**, so ensure that you convert correctly from UTC to your local time zone.

Common Student Questions

- Exam Information
  - The exams are generally 3.5-4 hours long.
  - Students open the exam and have the time length to complete the exam, in a single sitting.
  - Students can take the exam at any time during the exam window.
  - One thing to note on the exam window:
    - The exam window closes for everyone at the specified time, whether or not you have completed the exam.
    - While the exam length may be 4 hours, if you start the exam only 3 hours before the window closes, you will only have 3 hours to complete the exam.
  - New: Debugging questions will be part of the exam, making up ~20% of the points. These will be like normal exercises, except we will provide you a solution that doesn't work and you'll have to debug it.

Common Student Questions

- Exam Information
  - Exams and Homework notebooks have ==UNLIMITED SUBMISSIONS.==
  - ==In other words, you can submit as often as you want.==
  - We ==ENCOURAGE students to submit AFTER EVERY EXAM EXERCISE,== because it locks in points earned.
  - SUBMIT "early and often."
  - Please don't be that student who only submits once, at the very end of the exam, because you may not receive the points that you expect.

- Homework Notebook Information
  - Homework notebooks also have ==UNLIMITED SUBMISSIONS, up to the (extended) due date.==
  - See the course syllabus for specifics.

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Exam Rule Callouts

- Side-angle camera is required
  - Guide and rules posted on website: Guides/honorlock_side_angle_setup/
  - This requires you to use an iphone or Android phone, but we'd <u>recommend using an external webcam if possible.</u>
  - Your camera must show your entire work area
- Copy/Paste is prohibited
  - All forms of it, no "work arounds" are permitted
- Review AI search policy
  - Be familiar with it, you will still want to use Google during exams.

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Bootcamp Introduction

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Bootcamp Purpose

- **All Bootcamp sessions and materials are OPTIONAL, at each student's discretion.**
  - **There is no requirement to attend any sessions or watch any of the posted videos.**
- Intended for students who may not have a rigorous programming background.
- NOT to help with specific homework notebook problems.
  - Piazza and the Notebook Office Hours sessions (on Thursdays) are for that.
- Bottom line, the Bootcamp is designed to help students be successful on the course exams.

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Bootcamp Intro Topics

- Bootcamp format – videos and live sessions.
  - Live sessions are "long form lectures".
  - Similar to in person lecture classes.
- 4 Bootcamp Instructors – Rotating teaching.
- Bootcamp Topics Address:
  - Content that is not part of the formal class materials (in Canvas/edX).
  - Identified skill gaps for many students during the test taking experience.
  - Topics that are (historically) covered on the exams (When you look at prior semester exams, you will see these topics).
  - But we are NOT TEACHING THE UPCOMING TESTS!!!

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Bootcamp Conduct

- Bootcamp schedules and session topics are on the bootcamp information page, linked from the course web site.

- Any required announcements will be posted in the Bootcamp pinned Piazza post (both OMSA and VMM).

- Zoom link for all Bootcamp sessions is posted in the O/MSA Piazza post, for the Bootcamp.

- The live Bootcamp sessions are only available for the O/MSA students.

Bootcamp Conduct

- All Bootcamp sessions will be recorded, with the videos posted on Piazza, for students who are not able to attend the live sessions. The recordings will be posted in both O/MSA and VMM Piazzas.
  - The video for each session will be posted within 24 hours of the session end.
  - For VMM, we must ensure that all personally-identifiable information (FERPA) has been removed or obscured, so posting there may take an extra day.

Should I Attend the Bootcamp?

- Each student must decide for themselves whether attending the Bootcamp would be helpful for them.

- We have provided a **self assessment notebook**, to help the students with this decision.

- The notebook has both a version for students to write their own code in, and a solution version.

- The links for the self assessment notebook versions are in the bootcamp information page, linked to on the course web site.

- The self assessment notebook is OPTIONAL and is NOT GRADED.

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Bootcamp Resources

- Videos
  - Posted on Canvas/edX/Piazza
  - Current and prior semester Bootcamp content.
- Bootcamp GitHub -- Public repositories
  - https://github.com/gt-cse-6040
  - Contains working and final versions of all Bootcamp materials.
  - Students are welcome to access the repository in read only mode.
- Colab NBs
  - Part of GitHub site.
  - Class-developed content, not for grading.