



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

**MASTERS IN
COMPUTATIONAL
SOCIAL SCIENCE**
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

MACS 30111

Principles of Computing 1:
Computational Thinking for Social Scientists

Lecture: T/Th 2:00-3:20pm

Agenda

- ▶ Background / course info
- ▶ Diving into content!
 - ▶ Writing programs
 - ▶ Variables
 - ▶ Expressions and operators

About me

Jean Clipperton clipperton@uchicago.edu

- Jean or Prof. Clipperton

Research:

- Ph.D. in Political Science
- Agent Based Modeling
- Data Visualization

Current research interests:

- Text analysis of Taylor Swift + Eras tour

Today's class

- ▶ Course management
- ▶ Course Structure and Syllabus
- ▶ Difference between 30111 and 30121
- ▶ Grading
- ▶ Policies
- ▶ Challenges
- ▶ Course topics

Course Management

- ▶ **Canvas**

- ▶ Course landing page

- ▶ **Ed discussion**

- ▶ Announcements
- ▶ Asking questions (anonymous option also!)

- ▶ **GitHub classroom**

- ▶ Distribute assignments
- ▶ Accept first assignment (very simple to complete!)

- ▶ **Gradescope**

- ▶ Submit assignments and get feedback

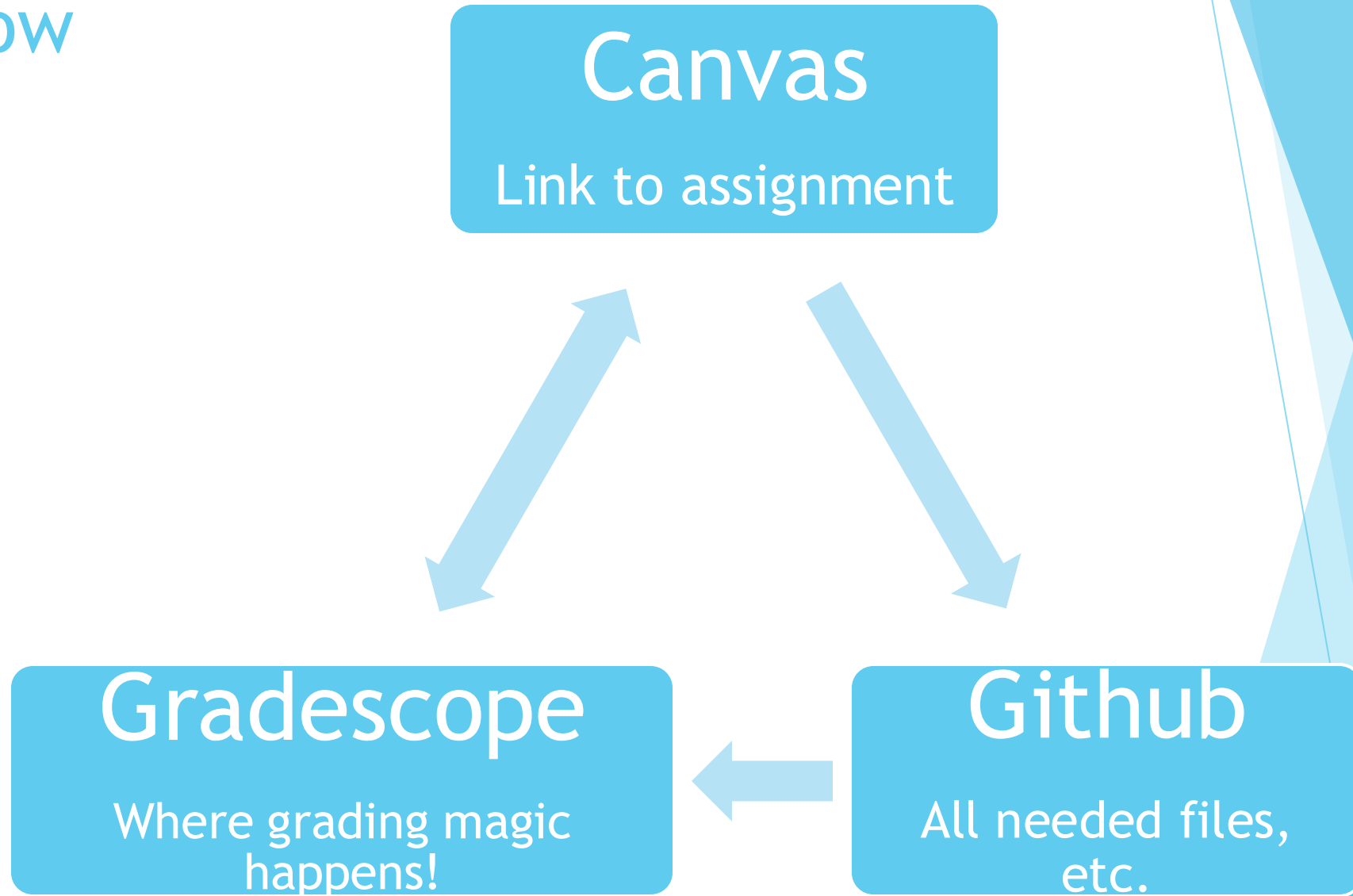
- **Course website**

- <https://classes.ssd.uchicago.edu/macss/macss30121/>
- **On-campus**
- **VPN for outside campus**

- **Textbook**

- Online: <https://book.cs-apps.org/>
- pdf

Workflow



Course Structure and Syllabus

- T/Th lectures (**NO LABS**)
- 6 modules (9 weeks)
- **Assignments:**
 - Team tutorial
 - Short exercise
 - Programming assignment
- **Exams**
 - Timed-assessments: **contact Student Disabilities Services if you need accommodations for this -- ASAP**
 - Midterm and Final (paper-and-pencil)

Grading

- **Assignments:**
 - Team tutorial (not graded)
 - Short exercise (auto-grading)
 - Programming assignment (auto + manual grading)
 - Style + correctness + completeness + efficiency
- **Exams**
 - Midterm and Final (paper-and-pencil)
- **Goal**
 - Help you understand how much you truly understand at a practical and theoretical level

Grading: different from what you may be used to

- **TT: Teaching Tutorials**, 2 points - these are completed independently and outside of class.
 - Grading is 2 points for a completed TT; 0 otherwise. Please be sure to fully complete the exercises.
 - You need to complete five of these (lowest score dropped).
- **SE: Short exercises**, 6 points - these are 'autograded' within gradescope.
 - Grading is (essentially) based on completion, although I STRONGLY suggest you look at the feedback you receive as it will help for the PAs.
- **PA: Programming Assignments**, 10 points each -- these are graded on meeting criteria and your overall coding quality. If you meet the autograder criteria + have excellent coding, you can earn a bonus point for quality of code.
- **Exams**: 45 points each -- these are points-based in grading and will occur in-class. See schedule for more details.

Grading: Expectations

- ▶ Do your best work
- ▶ Complete the assignments
- ▶ Should be able to expect a B in the course. From there, it depends on effort and how much you are able to challenge yourself with the material
- ▶ **Goal is that this is a supportive learning environment: you can make mistakes and learn.**

Policies

- Submit your own work: you are ****encouraged**** to work with others, especially on the team tutorial. However, **everything you submit should be the product of your own intellectual contribution. If in doubt, over-document!**
- **This is a learning environment.** We need to make mistakes so that we can grow. I challenge you to try to ask questions that you feel maybe others already know, to check in when you are feeling confused, and to ask for help if you made a mistake.
- I would much rather you do your best and have it be imperfect than have you submit perfect work that is not your own / not reflective of what you can do
- Finally, be here on time, do the work, and be committed to a growth mindset.



Preparing for success

- Have VS Code up
- Have the textbook up for easy copy/paste
- Look over slides in advance (I always update right before class, but they are tweaks for the most part)
- **Be ready to participate!**



What is a computer program?

A collection of instructions for the computer to perform.

Ask the computer to

```
print("Hello, world!")
```

```
8+6
```

```
def calculate_salary(hourly_pay, working_hours):  
    salary = 0  
    for h in working_hours:  
        salary = salary + hourly_pay * h  
  
    print("Bob earned $%d in last week" % salary)  
    return salary
```

```
salary = calculate_salary(hourly_pay=15, working_hours=[8,6])
```

Bob earned \$210 in last week

Human language: English, Chinese, French, Spanish, Germany, etc.

Computers, **programming language**: Python, Java, C, C++, R, etc.

Python 3

- Widely-used modern programming language
- Simple for beginners to get started
- Strong support from large community
- Python as a tool
- The concepts and skills you learn with Python will carry over to many other languages.

Think computationally

Topics:

- ❑ Writing and running your first program
- ❑ Variables and Types
- ❑ Expressions and Operators

Topics:

- ❑ **Writing and running your first program**
- ❑ Variables and Types
- ❑ Expressions and Operators

Your first program

```
print("Hello, world!")
```

How do we run a Python program?

1. In the Python interpreter
 - Small piece of code
 - Interactive
2. Saving the code to a file and *running* that file (you also got training on opening files in the terminal in the bootcamp)
 - Large piece of code
 - Reusable

Run a Python program in Python Interpreter

```
Last login: Thu Sep 21 13:03:43 on ttys001
(base) jeanclipperton@MAPSS-35004L Examples % python3
Python 3.9.12 (main, Apr 5 2022, 01:53:17)
[Clang 12.0.0 ] :: Anaconda, Inc. on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
[>>> print("Hello World!")
Hello World!
>>> █
```

```
Last login: Thu Sep 21 13:03:43 on ttys001
ipython
(base) jeanclipperton@MAPSS-35004L macs30111 % ipython
Python 3.9.12 (main, Apr 5 2022, 01:53:17)
Type 'copyright', 'credits' or 'license' for more information
IPython 8.2.0 -- An enhanced Interactive Python. Type '?' for help.

[In [1]: print("Hello World!")
Hello World!

In [2]: █
```

Run a Python file

A **.py** file that contains a sequence of Python instructions

```
Last login: Thu Sep 21 13:01:11 on ttys001
[(base) jeanclipperton@MAPSS-35004L Examples % echo "print('Hello world!')" > test.py
[(base) jeanclipperton@MAPSS-35004L Examples % python3 test.py
Hello world!
(base) jeanclipperton@MAPSS-35004L Examples % █
```

Interpreter vs File

1. In the Python interpreter
 - Small piece of code
 - Interactive
 - “REPL” (Read-Evaluate-Print-Loop)
2. Saving the code to a file and *running* that file
 - Large piece of code (e.g., 1000 lines)
 - Re-usable

Workflow:

1. Use interpreter to play around
2. Add code to the *.py* file
3. Test the program
4. Polish and repeat

Coding practice:

- Follow instructions from: **course website** → resources → running Python
 - Terminal + Python Interpreter
 - Terminal + IPython Interpreter
 - Terminal + Text Editor (.py file)

Test out your own “hello world!”

Course website

- <https://classes.ssd.uchicago.edu/macss/mac/s30121/>
- **On-campus**
- **VPN for outside campus**

Textbook

- Online: <https://book.cs-apps.org/>
- pdf

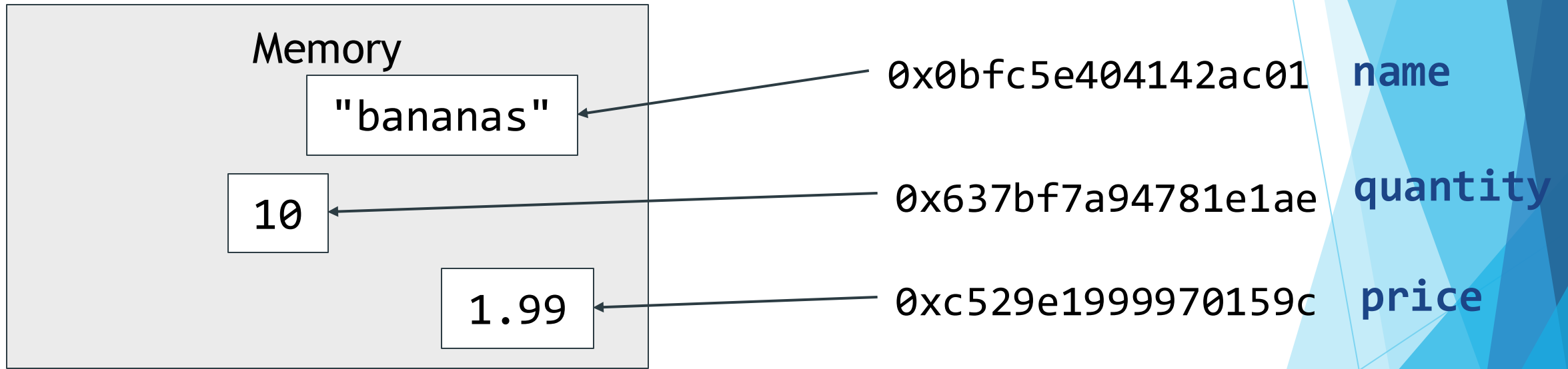
Topics:

- ❑ Writing and running your first program
- ❑ **Variables and Types**
- ❑ Expressions and Operators

Variables

Keep track of certain information while your program is running.

10 bananas, \$1.99/pound



A variable is a symbolic name representing a location (the information stored in this location) in the computer memory.

Variables

Assign a value to a variable:

variable = value

Assignment operator

Assignment statement:

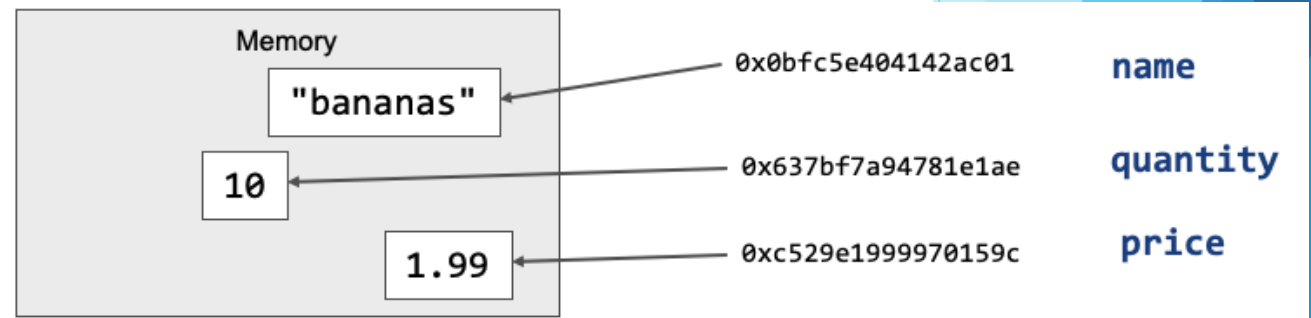
message = "Hello, world!"

Variable

Value

Variable Types

- Integers (e.g., quantity = 10)
- Real numbers, or “floats” (e.g., price = 1.99)
- Strings (e.g., name = “banana”)
- Booleans (e.g., is_fail= True/False)



Python is a *dynamically-typed* language. It infers the type based on the value being assigned.

the built-in **type()** function

Variable Types: Casting

Infer the type of a variable by the value it is assigned:

- `x = 14.5`, `x = "hello"`
- `msg = "The value of pi is" + 3.1415`
- Is this correct?

Casting: explicitly tell Python to convert a value to a specific type:

- *cast* 3.1415 into a string by using the `str()` function
- `msg = "The value of pi is " + str(3.1415)`
- similarly, there are `int()` and `float()` functions.

Quiz

Variables allow us to...

- Increase and decrease the size of our memory (because that size is variable)
- Keep track of information in our program
- Specify whether I'm running a Python program or a Java program

Quiz

What operator do I use to assign a value to a variable?

- =
- ==
- <_

Quiz

What are the types we can use in Python?

- Python only provides numerical types
- Integers, floats, strings, booleans, and None
- Real numbers, complex numbers, and text

Topics:

- ❑ Writing and running your first program
- ❑ Variables and Types
- ❑ **Expressions and Operators**

Expressions

`a = 5`

`b = 3`

`x = 1.5`

`s = "Hello, world!"`

Expressions: combinations of variables and operators

`addition = 2 + 2`

`subtraction_1 = a - 1`

`subtraction_2 = a - b`

Arithmetic Operators

- Addition: +
- Subtraction: -
- Multiplication: *
- Division: /
- Integer division: //
- Modulus: % (e.g., $8\%3 = 2$)

The order of evaluation is governed by *precedence rules*, which we can affect using parentheses.

Comparison Operators

- Less than: <
- Less than or equal: <=
- Greater than: >
- Greater than or equal: >=
- Equal: ==
- Not equal: !=

return Boolean value

Boolean operators

$a = 5$

$b = -10$

Logical AND: **and**

- True if both operands are True. Otherwise, False.
- $a > 0$ and $b > 0$

Logical OR: **or**

- True if at least one of the operands are True
- False if both are False
- $a > 0$ or $b > 0$

Logical NOT: **not**

- opposite of the boolean value
- not $a > 0$

Coding practice:

Reference book:

- **1.2.5**
- **1.2.6**
- **1.2.7**

A leap year is a year that...

- Is divisible by 4 but *not* divisible by 100
- Unless the year is divisible by 400

Topics:

- ❑ Writing and running your first program
 - ❑ Interpreter
 - ❑ File
- ❑ Variables and Types
 - ❑ Types (integer, real number, string, boolean)
 - ❑ Casting
- ❑ Expressions and Operators
 - ❑ Arithmetic
 - ❑ Comparison
 - ❑ Boolean

Homework and Assignments

- 1) Read 1.3 and 2.1 before next class
- 2) TT: Tuesdays
- 3) SE: Fridays
- 4) Accept first assignment to join GitHub classroom
- 5) Explore the course website

<https://classes.ssd.uchicago.edu/macss/mac30121/>

- 6) Office hours
 - 1) Canvas

First week: to do

- ▶ **Software and package installation**

- ▶ Anaconda

- ▶ **Tutorials**

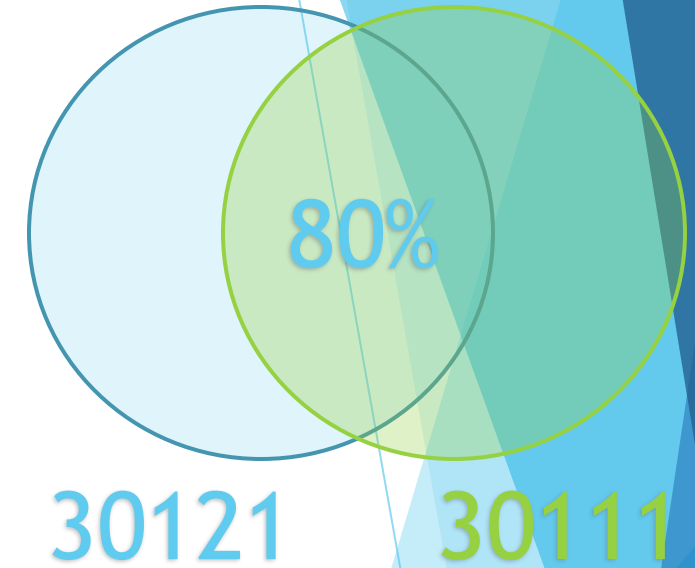
- ▶ Git
- ▶ Linux

- ▶ **Course workflow**

- ▶ Git/GitHub
- ▶ Canvas
- ▶ Gradescope
- ▶ Resources

30121 VS 30111

	30121	30111
Lectures	M1~M7	missing M6: recursion
Team tutorials	✓	✓
Short exercises	✓	✓ + additional
Programming assignments	7	3
Exams	✓	✓
Goal	computational thinking in various social science applications, which are both helpful for social scientists and potential computer scientist (or CS courses or a tech job (SDE, DS))	computational thinking ability and application in basic social science applications, preparation for a career in social science



A **pass** in 30121 can take advanced CS courses.

A pass in 30111 **doesn't count**, need to take CS placement exam for advanced CS courses.