

A vintage computer monitor with a yellow frame is positioned on the left, displaying a green screen with white text. Below the monitor is a keyboard with a mix of black, blue, and red keys. A snake with a yellow and black pattern is coiled on the desk to the right of the keyboard. The background is dark, and the overall scene is dimly lit.

Lecture 1: Introduction

Roadmap

- Introduction
- Housekeeping
- A note about AI
- What do we want to do this year?
- Warm-up problems
- Homework assignment



Introduction

```
for person in each_of_us:  
    person.tell_your_name_and_pronouns()  
    person.tell_cool_projects_this_summer()  
    person.tell_what_youre_excited_about_programming_this_year()
```



Meeting Times

- Lecture
 - In person: Thursday 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
 - Attendance mandatory



Communication

- Message me on Jupiter Ed
- Or email me: steve.joiner@hybridgeacademy.org
- I'll help you over email or we can set up a Zoom call
- I'll usually respond quickly, but it may take an hour or more if I'm busy
- Late night messages – may not respond until next morning

Lecture

- Review of previous assignment
- Presentation of new material
- Individual help with project
- Presentation of next homework assignment

Grades

- 85% Weekly homework assignments
- 15% Attendance and participation

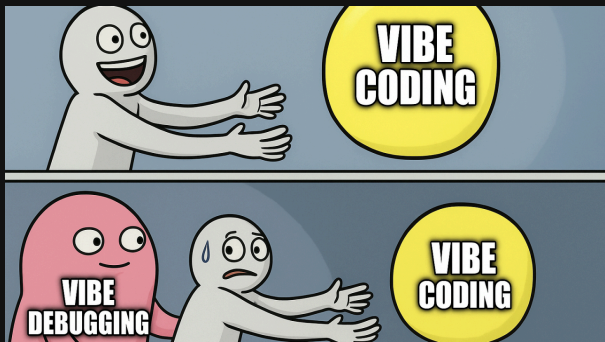
If we decide to do longer individual projects, then:

- 50% Weekly homework assignments
- 35% Individual project
- 15% Attendance and participation



Use of AI and Online Resources

- Do not copy/paste code from the internet
- Do not copy/paste code from AI
- Copy/paste from any source is considered cheating
- AI is everywhere
- Can be very powerful and helpful
- But can be a hindrance to learning
- 1st Semester: don't use AI at all
- 2nd Semester: we'll learn how to use AI effectively
- When using online resources:
 - Don't just copy solution – understand it
 - Then write the code yourself
 - We're here to learn, not "make the code work"
- Productive struggling is part of learning



Syllabus

- Mix of structured units and projects
- Structured units
 - Error handling
 - Use of AI in programming
 - Object-oriented programming
 - Version control (`git`)
 - Computer Science topics
 - Searching, sorting
 - Linked lists
 - Path finding
 - Binary representation
 - Compression algorithms
 - Pygame review
 - Advanced Pygame
- Projects
 - Artificial life
 - Computer vision
 - Electronics
 - Robotics
 - Godot
 - Web dev

What do *you* want to do?



Warm-up 1: Self-Referential Statement

- Write a program that prints the following:

```
This message contains ? characters.
```

- The `?` should be replaced by a value that makes the statement true.
- Your program should figure out the value for `?`.

Warm-up 2: Isograms

- Write a program that asks for a single word as input
- Then your program prints whether or not the word is an isogram
- An isogram is a word in which no letter occurs more than once

▼ TERMINAL

```
○ (.venv) $ /Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/.venv/bin/python /Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/code/isogram.py
Enter a word: python
python is an isogram.
Enter a word: syllabus
syllabus is not an isogram.
Enter a word: █
```

Warm-up 3: Brackets

- Write a program that asks for a statement
- Then the program prints whether or not the brackets in the statement are matched
- Brackets include: (,) , [,] , { , }

```
o (.venv) $ /Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/.venv/bin/python /Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/code/dobracketsmatch.py
Enter a statement: abc (def) ghi
Brackets match
Enter a statement: abc {def (ghi) [jkl] mno}
Brackets match
Enter a statement: abc [def {ghi [jkl] } mno]
Brackets match
Enter a statement: abc [def {ghi [jkl] mno]
Brackets don't match
Enter a statement: █
```

Warm-up 4: Hangman

- Write a program that plays hangman with you
- The program chooses a word
- The human guesses
- Create a short list of possible words (for now)
- Don't display the hangman drawing (for now), just show the number of remaining guesses
- Show:
 - Blanks and correct guesses
 - Incorrect guesses
 - Number of remaining guesses

```
(.venv) $ /Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/.venv/bin/python  
/Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/code/hangman.py  
Let's play hangman!
```

```
____  
Incorrect guesses:  
You have 6 guesses left.  
Guess a letter: e  
Good guess! e is in the word.
```

```
____e  
Incorrect guesses:  
You have 6 guesses left.  
Guess a letter: s  
Sorry, s is not in the word.
```

```
____e  
Incorrect guesses: s  
You have 5 guesses left.  
Guess a letter: c  
Good guess! c is in the word.
```

```
c__e  
Incorrect guesses: s  
You have 5 guesses left.  
Guess a letter: o  
Good guess! o is in the word.
```

```
co_e  
Incorrect guesses: s  
You have 5 guesses left.  
Guess a letter: r  
Sorry, r is not in the word.
```

```
co_e  
Incorrect guesses: s, r  
You have 4 guesses left.  
Guess a letter: d  
Good guess! d is in the word.  
Congratulations! You guessed the word: code  
(.venv) $
```

What About More Words?

- Let's read them from a file

Reading Files

built-in function

```
f = open("file.txt", "r", encoding="utf-8")
```

file object file name mode encoding

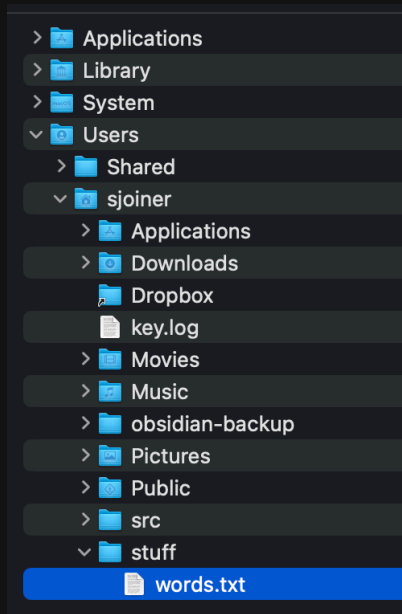
Example

```
file = open("file.txt", "r", encoding="utf-8")
# do stuff with file...
file.close()
```

- File name:
 - If no path, then file is in same directory from which you ran the program
 - Path can specify other location
- Mode:
 - "r" : open for reading
 - "w" : open for writing (erases existing content)
 - "x" : open for exclusive creation (fails if file already exists)
 - "a" : open for appending
 - "b" : binary mode
 - "t" : text mode
 - "+" : open for updating (reading and writing)

🐍 File Paths

- Files are organized on your hard drive in *directories* (also called folders)
- Separated by `/` on Mac and Linux, `\` on Windows
- Mac and Linux example:
 - `/home/Users/steve/stuff/words.txt`
- Windows Example:
 - `C:\Users\Steve\stuff\words.txt`
 - Note: Windows also includes drive letter
- These are *absolute* paths
 - Specify exact location starting from system root
- Relative paths specify location relative to your current directory
 - `..` means go up one directory
 - Example: `../../other-files/words.txt`





os.path Module

- Lets us deal with paths, files, and directories in an OS-agnostic way

```
from os import path

# results in:
#    ../stuff/words.txt on Mac/Linux
#    ..\stuff\words.txt on Windows

mypath = path.join('..', 'stuff', 'words.txt')

path.dirname(mypath) # returns ../stuff
path.exists(mypath) # returns True if the file exists

path.isdir(mypath)  # returns True if path is a directory
path.isfile(mypath) # returns True if path is a file
```

- See documentation for `os.path` for more useful functions



with Statement

```
from os import path

words_path = path.join('stuff', 'words.txt')

with open(words_path, 'r', encoding="utf-8") as file:
    # do stuff with file
```

```
from os import path

words_path = path.join('stuff', 'words.txt')

file = open(words_path, 'r', encoding="utf-8")
# do stuff with file
file.close()
```

- Alternative to `open` and `close`
- Automatically opens and closes the file for us
- Prevents errors from forgetting to close the file
- Expresses intent

🐍 File Not Found Error

```
from os import path

words_path = path.join('stuff', 'words.txt')

with open(words_path, 'r', encoding="utf-8") as file:
    # do stuff with file
```

```
▼ TERMINAL
(.venv) $ /Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/.venv/bin/python /Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/code/
hangman-with-file.py
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/Users/sjoiner/src/pyinter-2025/code/hangman-with-file.py", line 6, in <module>
    with open(words_path, "r", encoding="utf-8") as file:
        ~~~~~^~~~~~
FileNotFoundError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'wordx.txt'
(.venv) $
```

- You'll see this if:
 - Your filename doesn't match
 - Your path is wrong
 - Your file isn't in the directory

Reading from the File

- `file.read()`
 - read the entire file as a string
- `file.readline()`
 - read the next line as a string
- `file.readlines()`
 - read the file as a list of strings
- `for line in file:`
 - iterate over each line in the file
- line contains newline character(s) `\n`, or `\r\n`
- remove them with `string.strip()`

```
from os import path

words_path = path.join("stuff", "words.txt")
words = []

with open(words_path, "r", encoding="utf-8") as file:
    for line in file:
        sline = line.strip()
        if len(sline) >= 4 and len(sline) <= 7:
            words.append(sline)
```

- Now you can read words from a file for your hangman program
 - 10,000 most common english words
 - Scrabble word list
 - Large english words list

Improve Your Program

- Handle invalid input
- Handle guessing a letter that was already guessed
- No global variables

Homework 1: Evil Hangman

- Start with your improved hangman program
- Just like hangman except computer can change its word to keep you guessing
- Previous correct and incorrect guesses must remain true
- Whenever you guess, computer changes word (if possible) to make your guess a miss
- Will probably need to allow more guesses
- Example:
 - `_ _ _ _` incorrect guesses: a, b, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v
 - `_ i _ _` incorrect guesses: a, b, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v
 - `_ i n _` incorrect guesses: a, b, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v
 - `z i n _` incorrect guesses: a, b, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v
 - `z i n c` incorrect guesses: a, b, d, e, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v
- Alternatively, play normally until first letter guessed correctly, then play evil