

# Python: The Next Level

# Welcome

I'm your host, Aaron Maxwell.

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Our focus in this class: **Python features that let you build powerful, expressive frameworks.**

# Broad Itinerary

## Today:

- Generic function arguments and argument unpacking
- Understanding Python's function objects
- Key functions
- The benefits of Python decorators
- Basic decorator structure and patterns
- And... Homework!

## Tomorrow:

- Deeper into basic decorator patterns
- Advanced decorators: class-based, accepting arguments, etc.
- Extending Python syntax with Magic Methods
- Creating classes that act like lists, dicts, and more
- And... More homework!

# How we will proceed

## Download courseware ZIP:

- Click on the green "Resource List" icon
- Or fetch from: <https://powerfulpython.com/courseware-tnl.zip>

## What's included:

- PDF course book
- Slides
- README.txt with pointers
- Labs (i.e., programming exercises - more on that later)

Give you a break every hour (10 minutes).

Give me a thumbs up. (Let's try it now)

Ask questions anytime.

# Python versions

Most code I show you will run in both Python 2 and 3.

Where it's different, I'll code in Python 3, and point out the differences.  
(There won't be many.)

You can do the programming exercises in either 3, or 2.7.

# What makes perfect?

Practice, practice, practice.

- Practice syntax (typing things in)
- Practice programming (higher-level labs)

I expect you to do your part!

You **exponentially** get out of this what you put into it.

**GO FOR IT.**

# Running the labs

**Labs** are the main programming exercises. You are given a failing automated test; your job is to write Python code to make it pass.

Simply run it as a Python program, any way you like. (For example, `"python3 helloworld.py"`)

Run unmodified first, so you can see the failure report.

When done, click the thumb's up, and find someone to high-five.

**Then:** Move on to the extra credit.

# Lab: helloworld.py

Let's do our first lab now: 'helloworld.py'

- In `labs/py3` for Python 3.x, or `labs/py2` for 2.7

When you finish:

- Give me a HIGH FIVE! in the chat room, and click Thumbs up, so I know you're done.
- Proceed to `helloworld_extra.py`

You'll know the tests pass when you see:

```
*** ALL TESTS PASS ***  
Give someone a HIGH FIVE!
```

**When that's done:** Open and skim through **PythonTheNextLevel.pdf** - just notice what topics interest you.



# Getting the most

We'll take some class time for each lab. You may not finish, but it's **critically important** that you at least start when I tell you to.

After we're done for the day, find time to finish all the main labs before tomorrow.

Solutions are provided. Use them wisely, not foolishly:

- After you get the lab passing, compare your code to the official solution.
- Other than that, don't look at them if you can avoid it.
- The more work you can do on your own, the more you will learn. Peek at the solution to get a hint when you really need it.

Optional (**only** for future master Pythonistas): Do all the extra labs as well, as soon as you can manage.