**Welcome to the Course**

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In this course, you’ll learn how to use Git to keep a history of your code changes.

**Course prerequisites**

This course requires some familiarity with a few basic operating system concepts like files, directories, and file systems. You'll be using the command line for interacting with Git, so you'll need some familiarity with that as well.

All the examples in this course use Python 3. You'll need a basic grasp of the Python syntax, and the most common data structures and objects. To get the most out of this course, we also strongly recommend that you **install software in your machine**, or have your system administrator install it. You'll need to install Git to follow our examples, and Python 3 to test out the examples.

We'll use Linux for our examples, but you can follow along with Windows or MacOS computers.

**Obtain the Google IT Automation with Python Professional Certificate**

To receive your official Google IT Automation with Python Professional Certificate, you must:

* Pass all graded assignments in all 6 courses of the certificate program. Each graded assignment is part of a cumulative graded score for the course, and the passing grade for each course is 80%.

AND **one**of the following:

* Pay the [course certificate fee](https://www.coursera.support/s/article/209818963-Payments-on-Coursera?language=en_US),
* Be approved for [Coursera Financial Aid](https://www.coursera.support/s/article/209819033-Apply-for-Financial-Aid-or-a-Scholarship?language=en_US), **or**
* Complete the certificate through an educational institution, employer, or agency that's sponsoring your participation.

**How deadlines work**

When you enroll in the course, the system automatically sets a deadline for when you need to complete each section. Heads up: These deadlines are there to help you organize your time, but you can take the course at your own pace. If you "miss" a deadline, you can just reset it to a new date. There’s no time limit in which you have to finish the course, and you can earn the certificate whenever you finish.

**Qwiklabs**

For some of our exercises, you'll be using an application called Qwiklabs. Qwiklabs lets you interact with a computer running an operating system that might not be the same one running on your machine. The Qwiklabs scenarios will allow you to solve some real-world problems, putting your knowledge to work through active learning exercises.

**Getting and giving help**

Here are a few ways you can give and get help:

1. **Discussion forums**: You can share information and ideas with your fellow learners in the discussion forums. These are also great places to find answers to questions you may have. If you're stuck on a concept, are struggling to solve a practice exercise, or you just want more information on a subject, the discussion forums are there to help you move forward.
2. **Coursera learner support**: Use the [Learner Help Center](https://learner.coursera.help/hc/en-us) to find information on specific technical issues. These include error messages, difficulty submitting assignments, or problems with video playback. If you can’t find an answer in the documentation, you can also report your problem to the Coursera support team by clicking on the Contact Us! link available at the bottom of help center articles.
3. **Qwiklabs support**: Please use the [Qwiklabs support request](https://qwiklab.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new) form to report any issues with accessing or using Qwiklabs. A member of the Qwiklabs team will work with you to help resolve the problem.
4. **Course content issues**: You can also flag problems in course materials by rating them. When you rate course materials, the instructor will see your ratings and feedback; other learners won’t. To rate course materials:

* Open the course material you want to rate. You can only rate videos, readings, and quizzes.
* If the content was interesting or helped you learn, click the thumbs-up icon.
* If the content was unhelpful or confusing, click the thumbs-down icon.

**Finding out more information**

Throughout this course, we’ll teach you how to do a range of things with Git and GitHub. While we’ll provide a lot of information through videos and supplemental readings, sometimes you may need to look things up on your own, both now and throughout your career. Things change fast in IT, so it’s critical to do your own research to stay up-to-date on what’s new. We recommend you use your favorite search engine to find more information about the concepts we cover in this course — it’s great practice for the real world!

On top of search results, here are some great Git resources available online:

* [Pro Git](https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2): This book (available online and in print) covers all the fundamentals of how Git works and how to use it. Refer to it if you want to learn more about the subjects that we cover throughout the course.
* [Git tutorial](https://git-scm.com/docs/gittutorial): This tutorial includes a very brief reference of all Git commands available. You can use it to quickly review the commands that you need to use.