

# WHAT YOU WILL LEARN



# GIS PROGRAMMING FUNDAMENTALS (WITH PYTHON)



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Center for Geospatial Analytics  
North Carolina State University





# What do we hope to teach

1. The foundations of programming and Python syntax
2. Python access to ArcGIS.
3. Combine data processing and analysis to create a meaningful tool with an easy interface that eliminates tedious manual processing.



# Course learning outcomes

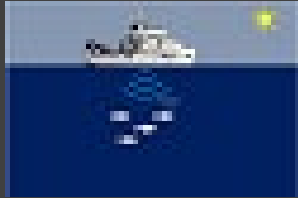
Students will be able to...

- interpret **basic Python syntax** (indentation, context highlighting)
- write Python scripts in an **integrated development environment** (PythonWin)
- use Python to construct code using **core data structures** (strings, lists, ...)
- call **ArcGIS tools** with Python (arcpy.buffer...)
- handle **contingencies** within Python (if, else...)
- construct basic **batch processing** Python code (looping)
- read/modify **data files** with Python
- create a graphical **user interface**
- do more...



# Course project examples

# Course project example



## Data preparation for Generating NOAA Acoustic Trawl Survey Fish Species Biomass Estimates - Shannon Dolan

Input: NOAA acoustic trawl navigational and cluster csv tables.

Output: Cleaned daytime data for specific species, a map of the data, and an HTML page to show the result.

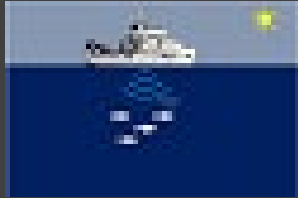


## Recreational Aviation Navigation - Aaron Jones

Input: Departure and destination airports, operational range, planned altitude for the flight.

Output: Flight map and HTML page including flight map plan and recommended stops.

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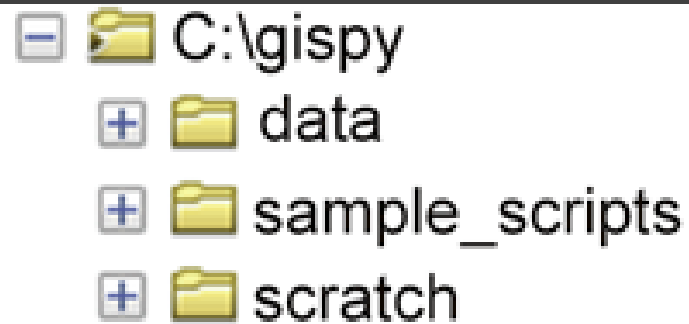


# GRADING AND EXPECTATIONS



# Textbook and data

- *Required textbook:* Tateosian, Laura. [Python for ArcGIS](#). Springer, 2015.
  - hard copy available for purchase
  - electronic version available for free to NCSU students (*pdf* recommended over eBook)
- Download the data and sample scripts from <http://go.ncsu.edu/gispy>

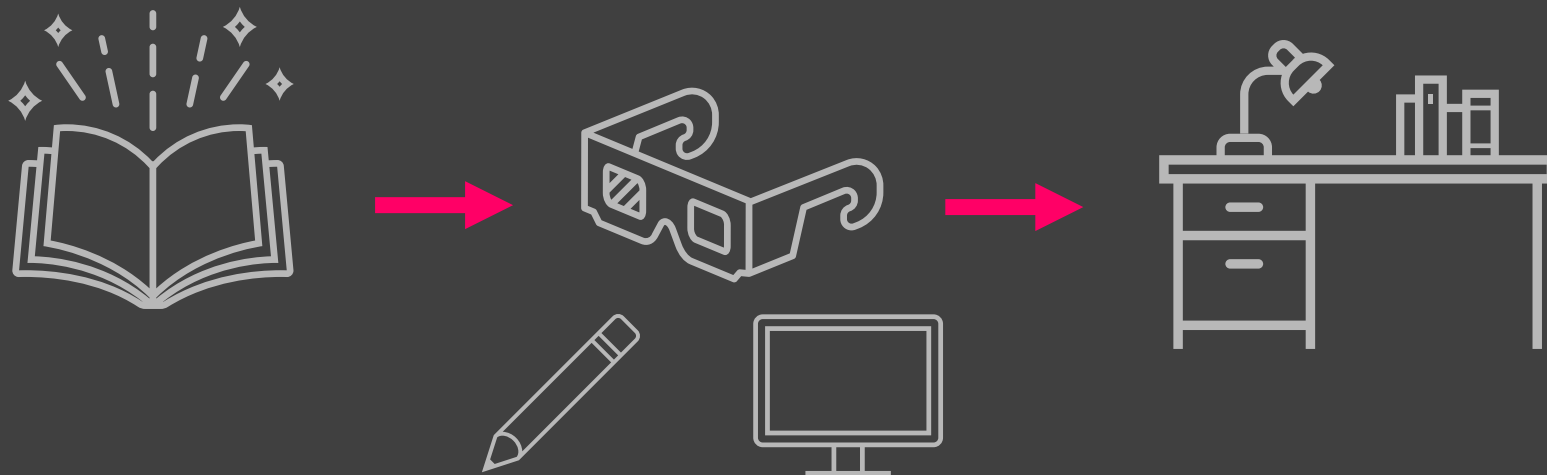




# What to expect

“Although the lectures provided a nice introduction to the material, I definitely learned to code best by reading the textbook and working through assignments (I think this is just the nature of coding).”

--Anonymous student on course eval.



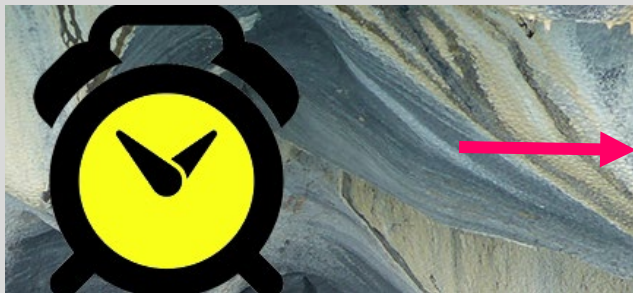
# Put more in, expect more

## GIS Cartographer Salaries

Job Title	Salary
Maps.com <b>GIS Cartographer salaries - 1 salaries</b> reported	\$44,270/yr
Jeppesen <b>Cartographer/GIS salaries - 1 salaries</b> reported	\$73,383/yr
DATA SOLUTIONS & TECHNOLOGY <b>Cartographer/GIS Technician I salaries - 1 salaries</b> reported	\$51,826/yr

## GIS Developer Salary

	Annual Salary
Top Earners	\$147,000
75th Percentile	\$124,500
Average	\$110,411
25th Percentile	\$95,000



30%

# Grading



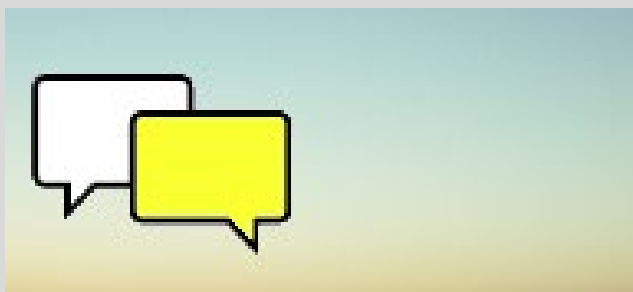
40%

- 4-5 timed quizzes (30%)
- Homework (40%)
  - Python scripts (10 pts each)
  - Python tutorials (4 pts each)
  - Moodle exercises (~21 pts each)



25%

- Project (25%)
- Participation (5%)
  - Piazza message board usage
  - Participation in help sessions
  - Lecture questions
  - Python notebooks



5%



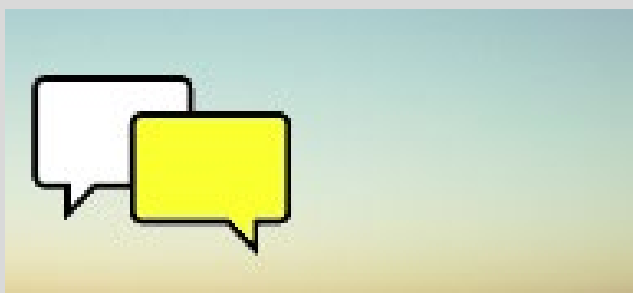
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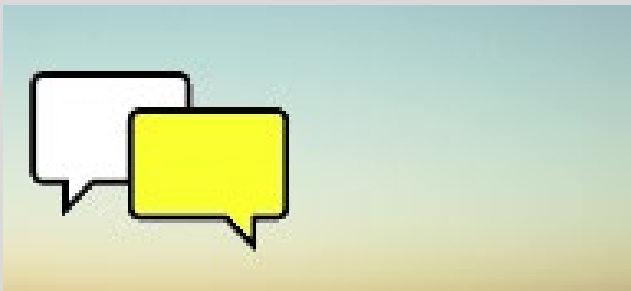
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# Final Project Instructions

Stage 1: Preliminary project proposal (~week 10)



Feedback



Stage 2: Project progress (~week 13)



Feedback



Stage 3: Final project submission (1<sup>st</sup> day of finals week)





30%

# Grading



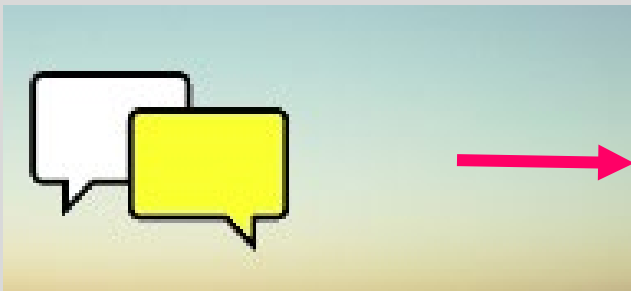
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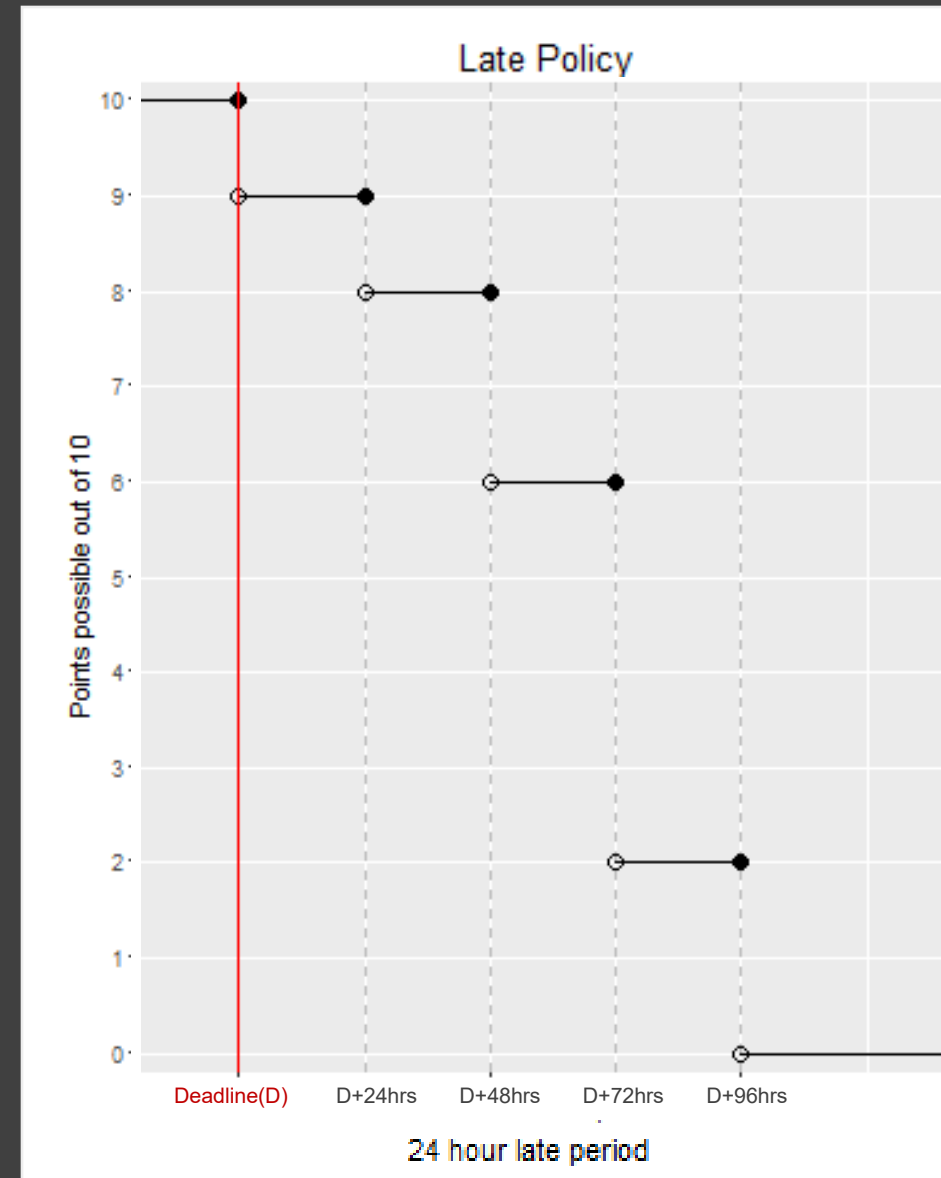


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# Late homework

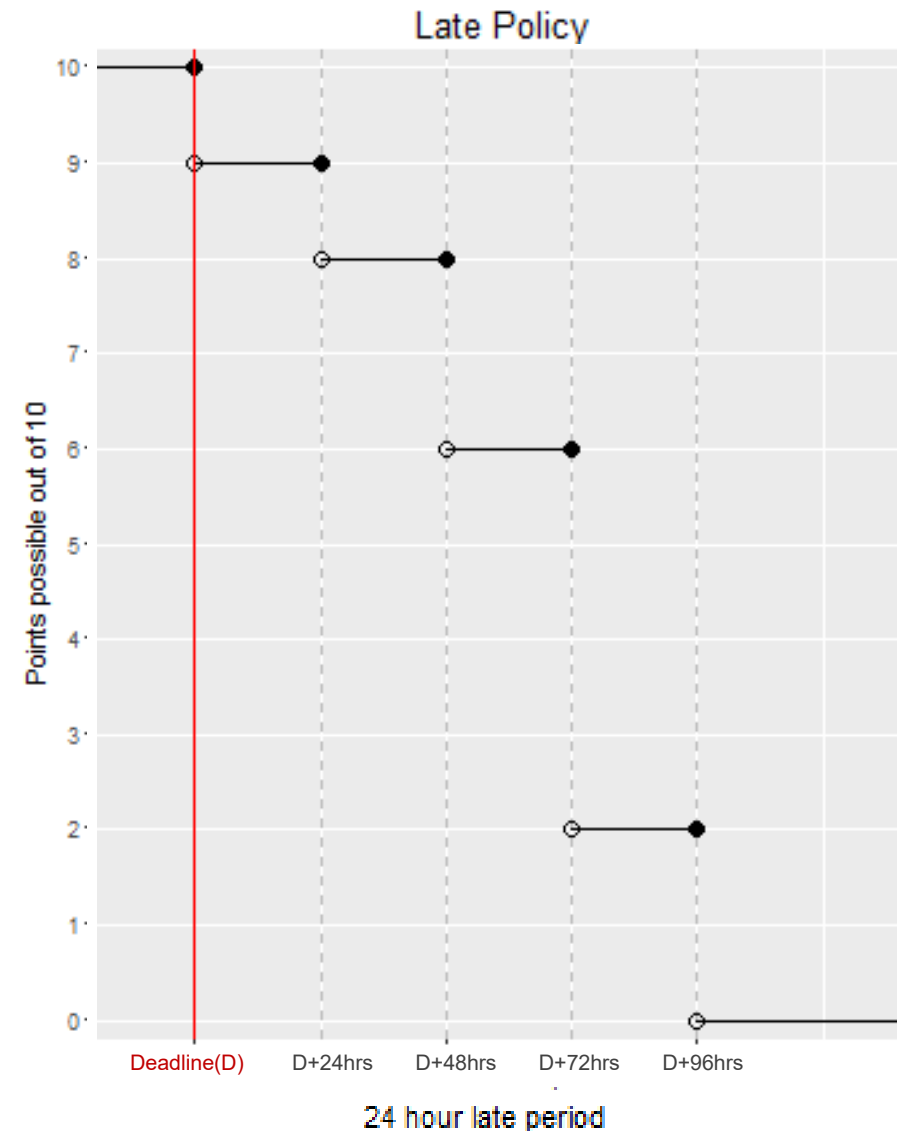
penalty =  $10 * 2^{(r-1)}\%$   
where  $r$  is the number of  
24-hour periods late.



# Late homework

penalty =  $10 * 2^{(r-1)}\%$   
where  $r$  is the number of  
24-hour periods late.

“Lateness” applies to  
each homework item  
separately.





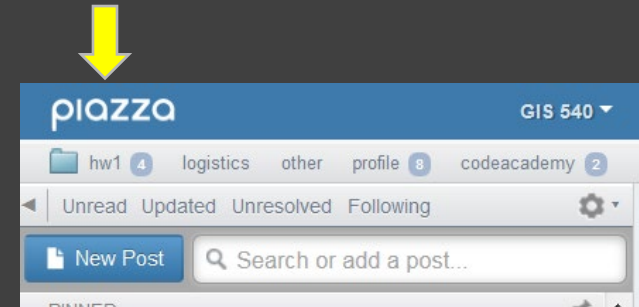
# Academic integrity

- Material challenging -> utilize teaching staff help. Otherwise, **homework assignments must be completed alone.**
- University policy is strict. Read the NCSU policy overview and Sections 8 and 9 of the Code of Student Conduct linked to the syllabus.
- Building fundamental skills in this class. Group work not allowed unless specified.
- Study groups can discuss code from in-class exercises, slides, and assigned reading, but not from homework.
- Not allowed:
  - Copying.
  - Talking someone through the solution.
- If you need more help go to office hours, Skype with TAs, or use private posts on the message board.
- Otherwise, the work you submit for homework must be entirely your own.

GETTING HELP

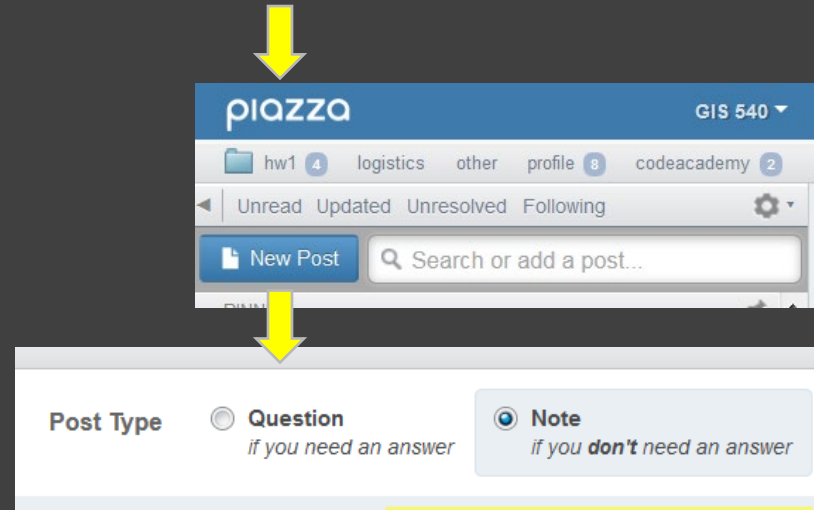
# Message board (Piazza)

- Post Type: **question** or **note**
- Post To: **public** or **private** (to instructors)
- Select folder(s)
- Filtering and searching



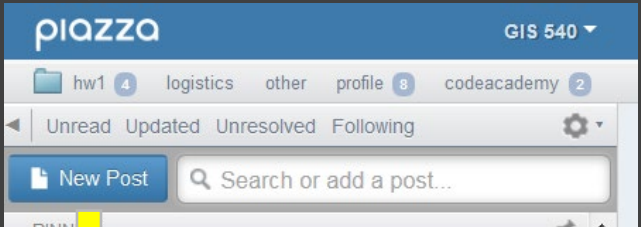
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The screenshot shows the Piazza interface. At the top, there's a blue header with the 'piazza' logo and a dropdown menu set to 'GIS 540'. Below the header, there are tabs for 'hw1', 'logistics', 'other', 'profile', and 'codeacademy'. A navigation bar shows 'Unread', 'Updated', 'Unresolved', and 'Following'. A 'New Post' button is visible. Below this, the 'Post Type' section has two options: 'Question' (selected) and 'Note'. The 'Post to' section has two options: 'Entire Class' and 'Individual Student(s) / Instructor(s)' (selected). A text input field is present with the placeholder 'Enter one or more names...'. A red box highlights the 'Post to' section and the input field. A yellow arrow points down from the 'New Post' button to the 'Post to' section.

**Post Type**

☐ Question  
*if you need an answer*

☒ Note  
*if you **don't** need an answer*

**Post to**

☐ Entire Class

☒ Individual Student(s) / Instructor(s)

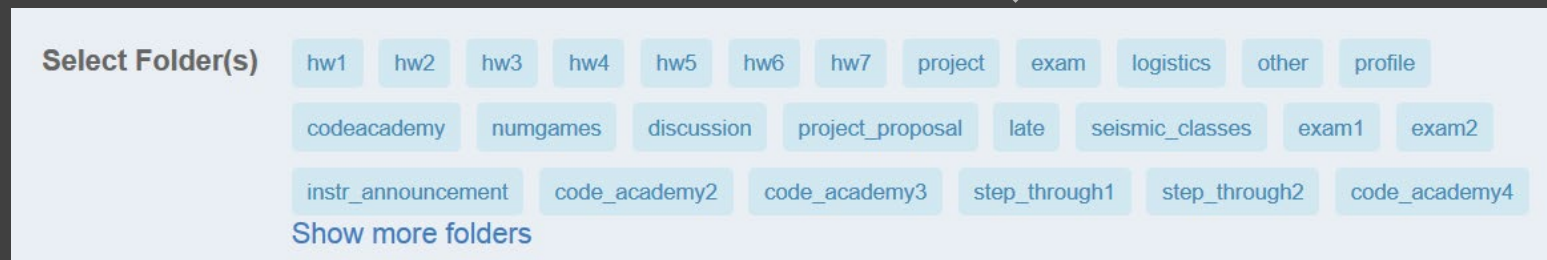
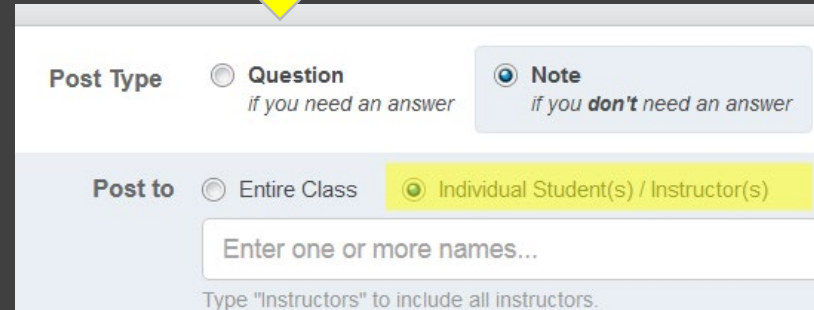
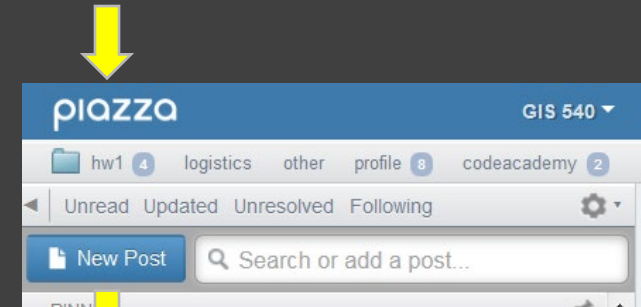
Enter one or more names...

Type "Instructors" to include all instructors.



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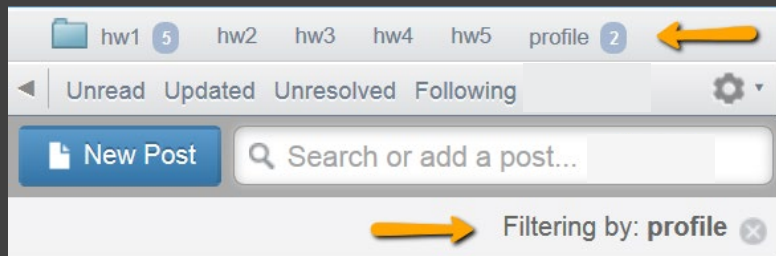
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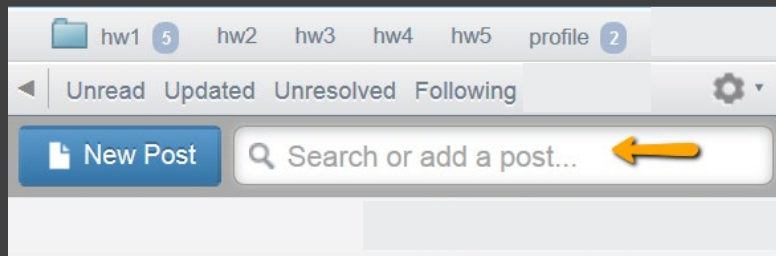
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# HELP!

Use the message board  
Meet with instructors/TAs

# Grade changes

- Grades and comments posted in the Moodle gradebook.
- Grade change requests must be submitted within one week of being returned.
- Submit grade change requests via private (to instructors) note on the message board. Be sure to provide the assignment number and question name and briefly explain the issue.
- Our goal is fair grading and we want to correct any errors.

**Post Type**

☒ **Question**  
*if you need an answer*

☐ **Note**  
*if you **don't** need an answer*

**Post to**

☐ Entire Class

☒ Individual Student(s) / Instructor(s)

Enter one or more names...

Type "Instructors" to include all instructors.

Instructors x

**Select Folder(s)**

hw1 **hw2** hw3 hw4 hw5 hw6 hw7 hw8 hw9

Your class is currently set to use default folders. Edit these folders via

**Summary**  
(characters or less)

HW 2 Chapter 2 #5) times.py possible grading error

**Details**  
plain text editor

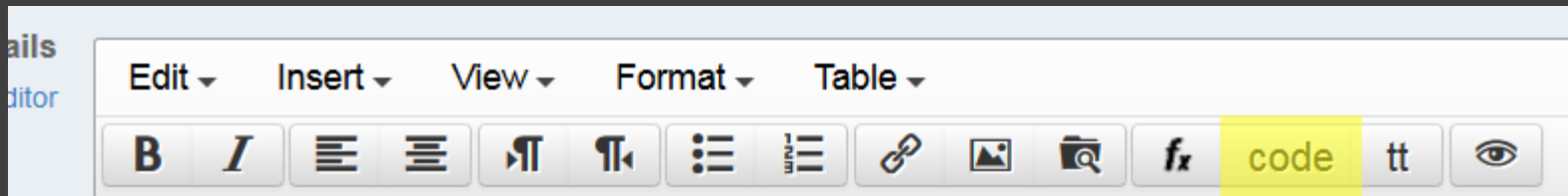
Edit Insert View Format Table

**B** *I* [List Icons] [Link Icon]

Hi all, I think the graders might have made a mistake

# Posting code questions on forums

- [How to create a minimal, complete, and verifiable example](#)
- make questions as specific and focused on one particular problem.
- post the error message and what you're trying to do.
- use the chapter where the homework question comes from.



- use the 'code' button to post code.
- enable students to discover mistakes.



# Course schedule

- **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**  
Intro to Python basics, integrated development environments, data structures, ArcGIS API, decision making, looping
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter** project proposal  
Batch processing, debugging, error handling, functions, cursors
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter** updated proposal  
Dictionaries, reading and writing text files, file GUI's, modules, classes, Mapping with Python
- **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**  
Reading and writing HTML and KML, script tools, additional modules, project work







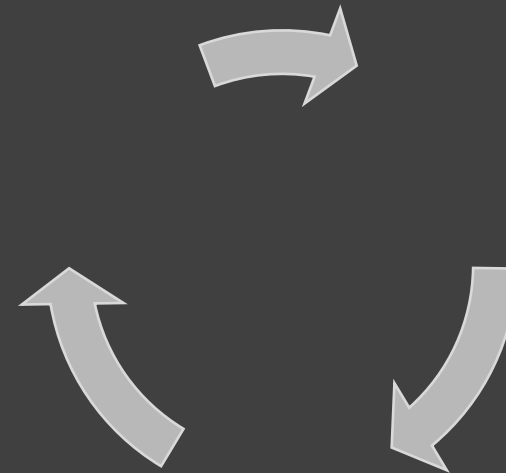
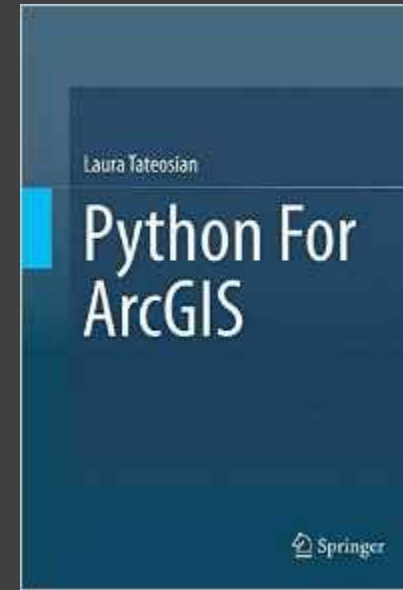
# Submitting homework scripts

- All deadlines are given in EST.
- Scripts should be named as specified.
- Put your unityID (e.g., jkrowlin) and name in each script.
- Don't zip submissions.

# ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

# Py4All

- A tool designed to accompany the textbook, *Python for ArcGIS*
- How to use it:
  1. Watch the Intro to Py4All video
  2. Browse to [go.ncsu.edu/py4all](https://go.ncsu.edu/py4all)
  3. Login with your NCSU unity ID and password
  4. Upload a Python script for feedback.
- Can be used iteratively





# Essential Resources

- Announcements (“FOLLOW” THESE)
  - General news and announcements will be posted here.
- Syllabus
  - Guidelines, expectations, and responsibilities for GIS540 participants.
- Piazza message board
  - Post your questions or comments (see the how-to) regarding assignments, software issues, and coding challenges here.
- Instructors (a.k.a. Meet the instructor)
  - Professor and Teaching Assistant names, photos, and office hour arrangements.
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  - upload textbook exercise scripts to receive automated feedback, compare your output to the solution output, and use this information to improve the script prior to submitting it for a grade.
- gispy.zip
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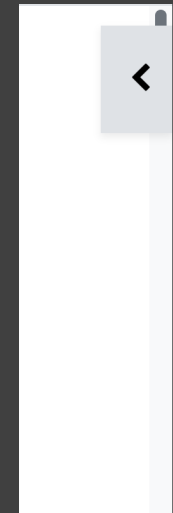
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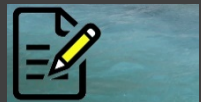
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# Schedule

- Week blocks
  - Topic 1
    - Readings
    - Videos
    - Slides
    - In-class exercises
  - Topic 2
    - Readings
    - Videos
    - ...



Homework blocks



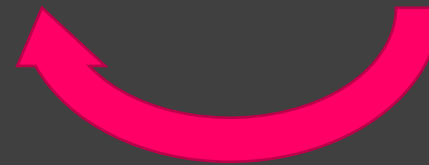
Quiz blocks

- Links to the quiz

TRY IT



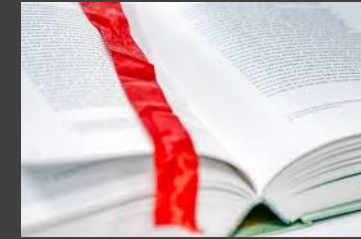
READ → WATCH → TRY IT → CHECK IT



READ AGAIN → TRY IT



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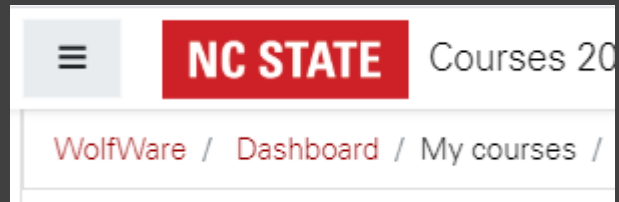




# Moodle navigation

Click the hamburger to expand or collapse the navigation bands on the left –hand side.

“hamburger”







# Hello world!

## Essential Resources

[Course ZOOM Link](#) | [Announcements](#) | [Syllabus](#) | [Py4All code checker](#)

[Course project instructions](#) | [Data & scripts \(gispy.zip\)](#) | [Schedule overview](#)



HELP! PIAZZA MESSAGE BOARD (using Moodle login)



# Software you need to install

- ArcGIS Pro
- DO NOT install Python (it is already installed with ArcGIS)
- PythonWin
  - Python is automatically installed with ArcGIS
  - PythonWin is not.
- Test if PythonWin is installed correctly
  - Type this at the prompt in the PythonWin Interactive Window:  
`import arcpy`
  - If you don't get an error message, you've got it.
- PyCharm is another easy IDE has some advantages over PythonWin (e.g., tabbed script windows and immediate tab completion) but has a steeper learning curve than PythonWin
- VS Code
  - We will use this to run Python notebooks when we run them outside of ArcGIS Pro