Course Syllabus

Jump to Today

This is a first course in programming, using the Python language. Students will learn the fundamentals of program design and should be able to develop programs of up to one hundred lines of code. No previous programming experience is expected or required.

This course includes the fundamental components of most programming language (variables, decisions, repetition, functions, and simple data structures), reinforced through weekly recitation activities and biweekly homework assignments.

This syllabus is organized into the following sections, in hopes of facilitating finding things within it:

Course Personnel:

Role	Name	Email	Hours
Instructor	Roger Christman	dvl@psu.edu	ZOOM: MoWe 10-12 F 1-4
T A	A. Burak Gulhan	abg6029@psu.edu	ZOOM: MoWe 4:30-7 PM
T A	Yihe Huang	yfh5264@psu.edu	ZOOM: TuTh 9-10:30 AM and 3-4 PM
L A	Praneeth Ramesh		ZOOM: TuTh 5:30-7:30 PM

Additional Tutoring Help:

Several student associations have offered tutoring services in past years. Interested students can find out if any of them still do.

- IEEE (http://www.engr.psu.edu/ieee)
- Association for Computing Machinery (http://acm.psu.edu)
- Association of Women in Computing (http://awc.cse.psu.edu)
- Eta Kappa Nu (http://www.ee.psu.edu/hkn)

Grading Criteria:

Category	Possible	Counted
Cengage Activities	40+10	40

`14 Recitation Activities  15 each`	210	160
`7  Program Homeworks      50 each`	350+	300
`3  Exams (130+.170+,200+)`	500	500

		1000

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   A  : 930     B+ : 870    B-:  800    C  : 700
   A- : 900     B  : 840    C+ : 750    D  : 600
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The extra points for homework and recitation are designed to allow for occasional slip-ups without hampering one's grade. Extra points beyond 300 or 160 in these categories will NOT add in to the final grade.

After the first midterm of the course, this Canvas site will contain cumulative grades, with the hopes that any grading errors may be detected and fixed in a timely manner. *Any error which is not brought to the instructor's attention before the last day of classes will stand as shown.*

Midterm Exams

Thursday 7 Oct 2021 6:15-7:30 PM 10 Sparks
Thursday 4 Nov 2021 6:15-7:30 PM 10 Sparks

Zoom:

This software package will be used for the instructor office hours in this course. There is a link on the Canvas navigation bat, or one can access this software at psu.zoom.us. Other course personnel may also choose to use Zoom for office hours, at their discretion.

Office hours are intended to provide help with homework assignments, or additional tutoring on lecture material. If they do not present sufficient time for a discussion, it would be preferable that one schedule an appointment. at least 24 hours in advance. *The instructor reserves the right to keep nights and weekends off-limits for office hours or consultation.*

Online Textbook:

These Login Instructions (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/files/122695855/download?wrap=1) provide a quick description of how to subscribe to this course or Cengage Unlimited.

The course key is MTPNDD3QSCMK -- this is NOT your Access key (which is for your individual purchase).

To best support students at the beginning of the term, your local Cengage team is hosting a “Help Desk” via Zoom during the first weeks of the semester to answer any questions students may have on enrolling, purchasing, or using Cengage materials.

The Zoom will be available every week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning August 17th through September 28th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm:
· **https://cengage.zoom.us/j/97652162052 (https://cengage.zoom.us/j/97652162052)**
· Meeting ID: 976 5216 2052

Course Graded Items

As indicated above, there are four major portions to the course grade. Recitations and Homeworks are graded directly within Canvas. The Mindtap site evaluates performance itself, and the results are manually transferred into Canvas. The

exams will also be graded on a separate site (Gradescope) and might not directly appear in the Canvas gradebook.

On-line Portion -- Cengage:

The on-line site includes some practice exercises to encourage students to keep up with the course material. Most of the exercises are short, aside from some end-of-of-chapter Labs. Each chapter also has a short multiple-choice quiz. Expect an hour or two per week to be enough to do the reading and the associated activities.

Credit will only be given to those problems solved by the due dates listed on the lab site -- partial credit will only be given for solving a portion of a chapter on time. All activities will allow multiple retries for a best score. *Late Answers will get **NO Credit!***

For best results, try to complete these Cengage activities by Sunday (before the Monday due date). Some oddities in the Mindtap grading scheme mark seemingly correct answers as wrong, for differences in spelling, spacing, or punctuation. It would be good to have those minor issues fixed before the deadline.

Recitations:

In-class assignments are a mixed bag of programming practice, tutorials, and quiz questions, usually expanding on recent lecture topics. All assignments should be completed during the scheduled class periods, when . NO SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED after the dropbox closes at the end of the day. Advance preparation is encouraged to guarantee completion.

There are a small number of practice quizzes to help to prepare for recitations -- such as one that deals with the rules of the game of Blackjack for a recitation on that subject; and another prepares for the first program recitation in the second week of the course. These practice quizzes do not count for the grade, but are there to help the recitation score.

Many of these recitations will create program files to run and test. DO NOT ERASE these program files after the class, or you will no longer have them to use to study for exams. And to make them most useful, you can 'take notes' within these files by putting information after a hashtag symbol (#) -- to remind yourself how you produced that code. These files will be much more helpful in exam study if they remind you how you solved the problems.

Homework:

Program assignments should be completed by 11 PM on Fridays. Late assignments will be accepted up to 5 PM the following Friday with a 10% penalty per weekday (Monday through Friday). Each assignment is expected to be individual work; any obvious indications of collaboration will result in a point deduction, depending on the nature of the collaboration.

Most of those homework assignments have three Canvas quizzes associated with them -- Specifications, Analysis, and Design. These quizzes have due dates well in advance of the homework due date to help distribute the working time -- to help students get good grades on time. Those who have trouble with these quizzes (or skip them entirely) will likely have trouble completing the assignment satisfactorily.

For best results, attempt to complete these quizzes before their listed due dates, to give plenty of time to ask for help from the course personnel. The quizzes are there for that purpose -- and do not count directly to the course grade.

Homeworks will be graded by the teaching assistants. To ensure uniform grading, please first address any disputes to the TA. If the problem persists, notify both the TA and the instructor via email (to leave a paper trail.)

Exams:

The midterms will cover material for the preceding weeks of the course, and will be a mixture of multiple choice questions and written problems. The final exam will be cumulative. Recitations give the best illustration of the nature and difficulty of exam questions, but the topics may also relate to what was necessary to complete homeworks.

Exams and quizzes will all be closed-book, closed-notes, no access to electronic devices (calculators, cell phones, etc).. Anything involving calculations will use simple arithmetic.

Attendance

Regular participation is necessary in this course:

- The 15% recitation portion expects regular attendance to those classes for a good score.
  Course personnel are available in the classroom for any questions that might arise, and can/will only help those students that are there to ask such questions. The activities are timed to match the length of a class period, so working on your own might not complete the assignment, even if trying to get help from Google.
- Some lectures give live demonstrations on how a program is developed -- lecture slides on Canvas will not include that development. Changes or clarifications regarding course content might only be made at the 8 AM lecture period. And reminders of upcoming exams and activities (as already scheduled on the syllabus) will only be made during that class -- there will not be class-wide emails reminding anyone of an upcoming exam.
  There are recordings on Canvas from the previous year for those who cannot avoid missing the lecture, but those will not have the announcements and reminders for the current term.
- And, of course, attendance is necessary for exams. There are surveys posted for those with conflicts with other exams or classes, which must be answered at least a week before the scheduled test. Conflict exams or other arrangements will only be considered for University-approved reasons -- not knowing or remembering there is an exam is not among those reasons, and may result in a zero for missing the test.

Any anticipated absences from the above must be resolved in advance. There is only a little room for adjustment for unavoidable circumstances (such as sudden illness). As indicated in a Faculty Senate document below, there is no obligation for special treatment for absences if no excuse is provided until afterwards.

The course grading scheme is already designed so that regular attendance will automatically affect the course grade in the student's favor, usually guaranteeing a passing grade. Therefore, regularly skipping classes and amassing many zero grades will not justify special considerations.

Further see the Faculty Senate statement at the bottom of this syllabus.

Academic Integrity

As already stated, all work (programs and exams) is expected to be individual work. If I believe some of your work is not original (somebody else's), I will only give credit for what seems to be original (which may be none). Cosmetic changes to code (such as renaming variables) does not qualify as original work.

The instructor is required to file a report any time there is cause to suspect a violation of academic integrity. A single minor offense in a single course for an entire academic career will have no long-term repercussions; the process is more severe for more severe occasions, or for having a history of multiple minor offenses across several courses. Students will always have the right to contest any allegation to a neutral third-party.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If a violation of academic integrity is confirmed, either by the student or by the reviewing academic integrity committee, the student will not be able to either drop the course or apply for alternative grading.

To best avoid suspicion of any kind of cheating, take care to avoid all of the following behaviors:

- searching on-line for information help to solving a homework problem
- using the Internet as an alternative textbook in studying for exams
- memorizing or copying answers or code from any source, including friends and classmates
- communicating with another student during an exam

There will also be a direct effect on the grade when cheating is discovered:

- homework solutions found on-line will have an automatic zero grade and a filing; an allegation of plagiarism does not require proof that the student personally obtained that solution from the internet -- it is plagiarism simply from not being original work. Not knowing the original source of the code is from the internet is not a defense.

- working together on the code and submitting common solutions will result in a reduction in the grade. For example, two students submitting the same program (aside from change in variable names) risk getting only half credit each.
- Any answer on Cengage or for recitations that is clearly copied from an outside source and is not a result of participating in the learning exercise as designed may earn a ***negative*** score to counterbalance the many such questions where cheating is truly not detectable.

If a student does not understand something in the course, it is the instructor's belief that is far better to admit the problem and come for help in learning it than to attempt to disguise the deficiency by cheating. All of the graded activities in this course (outside the exams) are learning opportunities, to acquire the knowledge that will be tested on the exams. Cheating without learning invariably leads to poor test grades.

Therefore, assistance is provided during all recitation classes; numerous office hours are scheduled throughout the week; questions can also always be asked in email.

Take advantage of the course personnel and resources provided and covered by your tuition.
Do not pay money to third parties to buy the failing grade that can easily come from doing so.

TL;DR: What kind of collaboration ***is*** allowed (let alone encouraged) in this course?
Since it is natural for classmates to communicate with each other (and really not preventable), here are some boundaries to put on those communications to stay out of trouble. Feel free to:

- discuss or review what was presented in lecture; maybe a classmate has insights to help you understand
- converse with neighbors during recitation, as long as everyone involved is trying to solve the problem, and not getting a free answer
- discuss the Specification/Analysis/Design quizzes associated with the Homework assignments, ***but not the program code itself***

If there is any uncertainty about whether something can be discussed, it would be better not to, and ask the course personnel for assistance.

The department has its own **academic integrity statement. (http://www.eecs.psu.edu/students/resources/EECS-CSE-Academic-Integrity.aspx)**

Other obligatory Syllabus Items:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Academic integrity includes a commitment by all members of the University community not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. Student Disability Resources (SDR) website provides **contact information for every Penn State campus (http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator)** (http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/disability-coordinator). For further information, please visit **Student Disability Resources website (http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/)** (http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/).

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: **See documentation guidelines (http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines)** (http://equity.psu.edu/sdr/guidelines). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.

COVID-19 POLICY STATEMENT

Penn State University requires everyone to wear a face mask in all university buildings, including classrooms, regardless of vaccination status. ALL STUDENTS MUST wear a mask appropriately (i.e., covering both your mouth and nose) while you are indoors on campus. This is to protect your health and safety as well as the health and safety of your classmates, instructor, and the university community. Anyone attending class without a mask will be asked to put one on or leave. Instructors may end class if anyone present refuses to appropriately wear a mask for the duration of class. Students who refuse to wear masks appropriately may face disciplinary action for Code of Conduct violations. If you feel you cannot wear a mask during class, please speak with your adviser immediately about your options for altering your schedule.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES STATEMENT

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park (CAPS) (http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/) (http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/): 814-863-0395

Counseling and Psychological Services at **Commonwealth Campuses (https://senate.psu.edu/faculty/counseling-services-at-commonwealth-campuses/)** (https://senate.psu.edu/faculty/counseling-services-at-commonwealth-campuses/)

Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400
Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

Attendance Policy (as recommended by Faculty Senate):

Class attendance is one of the most important ways students learn and understand course materials. It is a critical element of student success. Class attendance recognizes on exceptional occasions, students may miss a class meeting to participate in a regularly scheduled university-approved curricular or extracurricular activity (such as Martin Luther King's Day of Service, field trips, debate trips, choir trips, and athletic contests), or due to unavoidable or other legitimate circumstances such as illness, injury, military service, family emergency, religious observance or post-graduate, career-related interviews when there is no opportunity for students to re-schedule these opportunities (such as employment and graduate school final interviews.)

In all cases, students should inform the instructor in advance, where possible, and discuss the implications of any absence. Missing class, even for a legitimate purpose, may mean there is work that cannot be made up, hurting the student's grade in the class. Likewise, students should be prepared to provide documentation for participation in University-approved activities, as well as for career-related interviews, when requested by the instructor. Students who will miss a class in accordance with Senate Policy 42-27, should present a class absence form (http://www.psu.edu/oue/aappm/classabs.pdf).

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Thu Aug 26, 2021	Intro Recitation (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859236)	due by 8pm
Fri Aug 27, 2021	Homework 1 Specifications (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859239)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 30, 2021	Cengage Module 1 -- Introduction (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859261)	due by 11pm
	Homework 1 Analysis (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859253)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Sep 1, 2021	Homework 1 Design (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859245)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 2, 2021	First Program Recitation (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859244)	due by 7pm
Fri Sep 3, 2021	Homework 1 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859268)	due by 11pm
Mon Sep 6, 2021	Cengage Modules 1 and 2 -- Introductory Programming (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859266)	due by 11pm
Thu Sep 9, 2021	Under the Hood (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859223)	due by 7pm
Fri Sep 10, 2021	Homework 2 Specifications (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859221)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 13, 2021	Cengage Modules 2, 5, and 6 -- Data Types (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859267)	due by 11pm
	Homework 2 Analysis (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859226)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Sep 15, 2021	Homework 2 Design (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859234)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 16, 2021	Associative Data (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859232)	due by 7pm
Fri Sep 17, 2021	Homework 2 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859269)	due by 11pm
Thu Sep 23, 2021	Divisibility	due by 7pm

Date	Details	Due
	(https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859251)	
Fri Sep 24, 2021	Homework 3 Specifications (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859220)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 27, 2021	Cengage Module 3 -- Conditional (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859262)	due by 11pm
	Homework 3 Analysis (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859257)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Sep 29, 2021	Homework 3 Design (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859222)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 30, 2021	Conditional Recitation (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859228)	due by 7pm
Fri Oct 1, 2021	Homework 3 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859270)	due by 11pm
Thu Oct 7, 2021	Midterm 1 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/13414283)	due by 6:15pm
	While Loop Recitation (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859254)	due by 7pm
Fri Oct 8, 2021	Homework 4 Specifications (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859238)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 11, 2021	Cengage Module 3 -- Loops (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859263)	due by 11pm
	Homework 4 Analysis (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859230)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 13, 2021	Homework 4 Design (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859255)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 14, 2021	For Loop Recitation (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859235)	due by 7pm
Fri Oct 15, 2021	Homework 4 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859271)	due by 11pm
Mon Oct 18, 2021	BONUS: Cengage Lab 3 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859259)	due by 11pm
Thu Oct 21, 2021	Implementing Functions (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859237)	due by 7pm
Fri Oct 22, 2021	Homework 5 Specifications	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	(https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859250)	
Mon Oct 25, 2021	Cengage Module 4 -- Functions (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859264)	due by 11pm
	Homework 5 Analysis (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859227)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 27, 2021	Homework 5 Design (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859252)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 28, 2021	List Parameters (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859240)	due by 7pm
Fri Oct 29, 2021	Homework 5 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859272)	due by 11pm
Thu Nov 4, 2021	Functional Design (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859241)	due by 7pm
Fri Nov 5, 2021	Prepare for the Final Project (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859273)	due by 5pm
	Homework 6 Specifications (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859258)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 8, 2021	Cengage Module 8 -- Files (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859265)	due by 11pm
	Homework 6 Analysis (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859233)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Nov 10, 2021	Homework 6 Design (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859248)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 11, 2021	Midterm 2 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/13472316)	due by 6:15pm
	Working with Files (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859246)	due by 7pm
Fri Nov 12, 2021	Project Design (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859274)	due by 11pm
Thu Nov 18, 2021	Comprehensions (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859242)	due by 7pm
Mon Nov 29, 2021	BONUS: Cengage Lab 5 (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859260)	due by 11pm
Thu Dec 2, 2021	Recursion	due by 7pm

Date	Details	Due
	(https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859231)	
Mon Dec 6, 2021	Project Implementation (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/12859275)	due by 11pm
Wed Dec 15, 2021	Final Exam (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/13485219)	due by 12:20pm
	EECS Academic Integrity Quiz (https://psu.instructure.com/courses/2145163/assignments/13212900)	