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IT FDN 110 A
Assignment 07

Creating Python Scripts – Classes and Objects

Introduction

This Assignment 07 involves creating a Python program that utilizes constants, variables, and print statements to display a message about a student's registration for a Python course. Building upon the knowledge gained in Assignment 06, this task introduces new concepts, including the use of data classes.

Preparation for this assignment

To prepare for this assignment, I reviewed the "Module 07 Notes" (Reference 1), completed the three lab examples, and watched both the Module 07 videos available on Washington University's Canvas platform (Figure 1) and the recommended external video in Reference 2. Through these materials, I learnt how to work with data classes, including their attributes, constructors, properties and methods. I also gained an understanding of about the Inheritance concept, where a child class inherit data value, properties and methods from its parent class, and how to override inherited methods.

Mod07 Videos

















Module	Name	Link
7	Mod07 - Classes And Functions	https://youtu.be/tLyWwmfu-Vc  
7	Mod07 - Using Constructors	https://youtu.be/7D7damse9xs  
7	Mod07 - Lab01 Review	https://youtu.be/LAEotZSO-AM  
7	Mod07 - Using Properties	https://youtu.be/JE940GjMySI  
7	Mod07 - Lab02 Review	https://youtu.be/L9nN8nMOqr8  
7	Mod07 - Using Inheritance	https://youtu.be/DkBPVcl5POU  
7	Mod07 - Lab03 Review	https://youtu.be/A6ABtRQ-YXs  
7	Mod07 - Pycharm And Github	https://youtu.be/-S7fuwYqHp8  

Figure 1 – Mod07-Videos

Python Scripting

I started by using my script, *Assignment06.py*, from the previous assignment as the foundation for this project. The objective was to implement a set of data classes and objects. First, I created a Person class, which included private attributes for the first and last names, along with "getter" and "setter" properties and error handling. Next, I developed a child class called Student, which inherited the attributes of the Person class and introduced an additional attribute for the course name, complete with its own "getter" and "setter" properties.

After defining these two classes, I updated the methods in the FileProcessor and IO classes to work with objects instead of dictionaries. Finally, I modified the main body of the script to utilize objects, ensuring seamless integration of the new data class structure.

The functions (methods) are organized into four classes: Person, Student, FileProcessor, and IO. The FileProcessor class contains functions for reading data from and writing data to a .json file. The Person and Student classes define the data objects, including the student's first name, last name, and course name. The IO class manages user interactions, such as presenting menu options, gathering input data, displaying messages, and handling error notifications.

The script retains the two global variables defined in the Assignment 06 script: menu_choice, a string used to store the user's selected option, and students, a list used to hold the information of all registered students. These variables are initialized as an empty string and an empty list, respectively.

The script is structured into key sections: the header, imports, variable and constant definitions, class and function definitions, and the main body. Functions are grouped into classes based on their roles, ensuring alignment with the data processing and presentation layers for better organization and clarity.

```
# Header
# Import
# Global Data
# Data Layer
    Definition of data constants
    Definition of variable
# Class Definition
    Data Class
        Class Person
        Class Student
    Processing data layer
        Class FileProcessor
            Function read_data_from_file created
            Function write_data_to_file created
    Presentation data layer
        Class IO
            Function output_error_messages created
            Function output_menu
            Function input_menu_choice
            Function output_student_courses
            Function input_student_data

# Main body of the script
```

The script is displayed in separated figures, split across Figure 2 to Figure 6 according its correspondent sections.

Header, import, constants and variables script parts are presented in the Figure 2.

```

1  # ----- #
2  # Title: Assignment06
3  # Desc: This assignment demonstrates using data classes
4  # with structured error handling and SoC
5  # Change Log: (Who, When, What)
6  # Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created Script
7  # Renato Felicio, 11/23/2024, Modified to work with data classes
8  # <Your Name Here>, <Date>, <Activity>
9  # ----- #
10
11 # Import section
12 import json
13 from typing import TextIO
14
15 # Global Data Layer
16
17 # Define the Data Constants
18 MENU: str = '''
19 ---- Course Registration Program ----
20 Select from the following menu:
21     1. Register a Student for a Course.
22     2. Show current data.
23     3. Save data to a file.
24     4. Exit the program.
25 ----
26 '''
27 # Define the Data Constants
28
29 FILE_NAME: str = "Enrollments.json" # Constant holds the name of the file with students data
30
31 # Define the Data Variables and constants
32 students: list[] # This variable holds the information of all registered students.
33 menu_choice: str = '' # It holds the user choice.

```

Figure 2 – Python Script Header Import and Variables

Data classes are presented in Figure 3.

```

55 # Class definition
56
57 # Data Class (This section includes person and student data classes)
58
59 @dataclass
60 class Person:
61     """
62     A class representing person data.
63
64     Properties:
65         student_first_name (str): The student's first name.
66         student_last_name (str): The student's last name.
67
68     ChangeLog:
69         ~ Renato Felicio, 11/23/2024: Created the class.
70     """
71
72     # Constructor for student's first and last name are defined below:
73     def __init__(self, student_first_name: str = '', student_last_name: str = ''): # parameters default to empty
74         self.student_first_name = student_first_name # set the attribute using the property to provide validation
75         self.student_last_name = student_last_name # set the attribute using the property to provide validation
76
77     # Getter and Setter Properties for first name are created below
78     @property
79     def student_first_name(self):
80         return self.__student_first_name.title()
81
82     @student_first_name.setter
83     def student_first_name(self, value: str):
84         if value.isalpha() or value == '': # checks if user input values are alphabetic characters or empty string
85             self.__student_first_name = value
86         else:
87             raise ValueError("The first name should not contain numbers.") # Custom error message
88
89     # Getter and Setter Properties for last name are created below
90     @property
91     def student_last_name(self):
92         return self.__student_last_name.title() # checks if user input values are alphabetic characters or empty string
93
94     @student_last_name.setter
95     def student_last_name(self, value: str):
96         if value.isalpha() or value == '': # checks if user input values are alphabetic characters or empty string
97             self.__student_last_name = value
98         else:
99             raise ValueError("The last name should not contain numbers.") # Custom error message
100
101     # Method to extract the comma separate data is presented below, it overrides the __str__() method
102     def __str__(self):
103         return f'{self.student_first_name},{self.student_last_name}'
104
105 # Student class is defined below, and it inherited person class
106
107 class Student(Person):
108     """
109     A class representing student data.
110
111     Properties:
112         course_name (str): The course name for the student registration.
113
114     ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
115         Renato Felicio, 11/23/2024, Created Class
116     """
117
118     # Constructor for student's course name is defined below:
119     def __init__(self, student_first_name: str = '', student_last_name: str = '', course_name: str = ''):
120         super().__init__(student_first_name=student_first_name, student_last_name=student_last_name)
121         self.course_name = course_name
122
123     # Getter and Setter Properties for course name are created below
124     @property
125     def course_name(self):
126         return self.__course_name
127
128     @course_name.setter
129     def course_name(self, value: str):
130         self.__course_name = value
131
132     # Method to extract the comma separate data is presented below, it overrides the __str__() method
133     def __str__(self):
134         return f'{self.student_first_name},{self.student_last_name},{self.course_name}'

```

Figure 3 – Python Script Data Layer

Processing data layer is presented in Figure 4.

```

137 # Processing Data Layer
138 class FileProcessor: 3 usages
139     """
140     A collection of processing layer functions that work with json files
141     """
142     ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
143     Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created Class
144     Renato Felicio, 11/26/2024, Modified Class to work with list of student objects
145     """
146     @staticmethod 1 usage
147     def read_data_from_file(file_name: str, student_data: list): # This function reads data from json file
148         """ This function reads data from a json file into a list of object rows
149         """
150         Notes:
151         - Data sent to the student_data parameter will be overwritten.
152         ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
153         Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created function
154         Renato Felicio, 11/23/2024, Modified function to work with student data in objects instead of dictionaries
155         """
156         :param file_name: string with the name of the file we are reading
157         :param student_data: List of object rows containing student data
158         :return: List of object rows filled with data
159         """
160         try:
161             file = TextIO = open(file_name, "r") # Open the JSON file for reading
162             json_data: List = json.load(file) # File data is loaded into a table of dictionaries
163             # Now 'json_data' contains the parsed JSON data as a Python List of dictionaries
164             for student in json_data: # This for will convert the student data into a table of objects
165                 student_object = Student(student_first_name=student['first_name'],
166                                         student_last_name=student['last_name'],
167                                         course_name=student['course_name'])
168                 student_data.append(student_object)
169             file.close()
170         except FileNotFoundError as e: # Handles error in case there is no initial file
171             IO.output_error_messages(message="Data file must exist before running this script!", error=e)
172             file = open(FILE_NAME, "a") # Creates an empty initial file, in case of file not found
173             IO.output_error_messages(message="Empty file was created!\n")
174         except Exception as e:
175             IO.output_error_messages(message="Error: There was a problem with reading the file.", error=e)
176         finally:
177             if file.closed == False:
178                 file.close()
179         return student_data
180
181     @staticmethod 1 usage
182     def write_data_to_file(file_name: str, student_data: list): # This function reads data from json file
183         """ This function writes data to a json file from a list of object rows
184         """
185         ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
186         Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created function
187         Renato Felicio, 11/23/2024, Modified function to work with students objects instead of dictionaries, and
188         added type exception error
189         """
190         :param file_name: string with the name of the file we are writing to
191         :param student_data: List of object rows containing student data
192         :return: None
193         """
194         try:
195             json_data: list = []
196             for student in student_data: # Converts List of Student objects to list of dictionary rows.
197                 student_json: dict = {
198                     "first_name": student.student_first_name,
199                     "last_name": student.student_last_name,
200                     "course_name": student.course_name
201                 }
202                 json_data.append(student_json)
203             file: TextIO = open(file_name, "w")
204             json.dump(json_data, file) # It writes the list of dictionaries into a json file
205             file.close()
206         except TypeError as e:
207             IO.output_error_messages(message="Please check that the data is a valid JSON format", error=e)
208         except Exception as e: # It handles any exception that could happen when writing the file
209             if file.closed == False:
210                 IO.output_error_messages(message="There was a problem with writing to the file.", error=e)
211                 IO.output_error_messages(message="Please check that the file is not open by another program.", error=e)
212             print()
213         # End of Processing Data Layer

```

Figure 4 – Python Script Processing Data Layer

Presentation data layer and main body are presented in Figure 5 and Figure 6, respectively.

```

244 # Presentation Data Layer
245 class IO: 1 usage
246     """A collection of presentation layer functions that manage user input and output
247     """
248     ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
249     Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created Class
250     """
251     @staticmethod 9 usages
252     def output_error_messages(message: str, error: Exception = None):
253         """ This function displays a custom error messages to the user
254         """
255         ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
256         Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created function
257         """
258         :return: None
259         """
260         print(message, end="\n\n")
261         if error is not None:
262             print("-- Technical Error Message --")
263             print(error, error.__doc__, type(error), sep='\n')
264
265     @staticmethod 1 usage
266     def output_menu(menu: str):
267         """ This function displays the menu of choices to the user
268         """
269         ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
270         Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created function
271         """
272         :return: None
273         """
274         print(menu)
275
276     @staticmethod 1 usage
277     def input_menu_choice():
278         """ This function gets a menu choice from the user
279         """
280         ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
281         Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created function
282         """
283         :return: string with the users choice
284         """
285         choice = "0"
286         try:
287             choice: str = input("What would you like to do: ")
288             if choice not in ("1", "2", "3", "4"): # Note these are strings
289                 raise Exception("Please, choose only 1, 2, 3, or 4")
290         except Exception as e:
291             IO.output_error_messages(e.__str__()) # Not passing e to avoid the technical message
292         return choice
293
294     @staticmethod 1 usage
295     def output_student_courses(student_data: list):
296         """ This function displays the current data to the user
297         """
298         ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
299         Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created function
300         Renato Felicio, 11/23/2024, Modified to work with objects
301         """
302         :return: None
303         """
304         # Process the data to create and display a custom message
305         print("--" * 50)
306         # student_data=
307         for student in student_data:
308             print(f"Student {student.student_first_name} "
309                   f"{student.student_last_name} is enrolled in {student.course_name}")
310             print("--" * 50)
311
312     @staticmethod 1 usage
313     def input_student_data(student_data: list):
314         """ This function gets data from the user and adds it to a list of object rows
315         """
316         ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
317         Renato Felicio, 11/16/2024, Created function
318         Renato Felicio, 11/23/2024, Modified function to work with objects instead of dictionaries
319         """
320         :param student_data: List of dictionary rows containing student current data
321         :return: List of object rows filled with a new row of data
322         """
323         try:
324             # Input of data
325             student = Student()
326             student.student_first_name: str = input("Enter the student's first name: ") # Holds student first name input
327             student.student_last_name: str = input("Enter the student's last name: ") # Holds student last name input
328             student.course_name: str = input("Please enter the name of the course: ") # Holds course name input
329             student_data.append(student)
330         except ValueError as e:
331             IO.output_error_messages(message="", error=e)
332         except Exception as e:
333             IO.output_error_messages(message="Error: There was a problem with your entered data.", error=e)
334         return student_data
335
336 # End of Presentation Data Layer
337
338 # End of class Definition

```

Figure 5 – Python Script Presentation Data Layer

```

3291
3292     # Start of the main body of the script
3293
3294     # Read data from a file
3295     students:list = FileProcessor.read_data_from_file(file_name=FILE_NAME, student_data=students)
3296
3297     while (True): # Loops through the menu of options
3298         # Present the menu of choices
3299         IO.output_menu(MENU)
3300         menu_choice=IO.input_menu_choice()
3301
3302         # Input user data
3303         if menu_choice == "1": # This will not work if it is an integer!
3304             students=IO.input_student_data(students)
3305             continue
3306
3307         # Present the current data
3308         elif menu_choice == "2":
3309             # Process the data to create and display a custom message
3310             IO.output_student_courses(student_data=students)
3311             continue
3312
3313         # Save the data to a file and present to user
3314         elif menu_choice == "3":
3315             FileProcessor.write_data_to_file( file_name: FILE_NAME, student_data: students)
3316             IO.output_student_courses(students)
3317             continue
3318
3319         # Stop the loop
3320         elif menu_choice == "4":
3321             break # out of the loop
3322         else:
3323             print("Please only choose option 1, 2, or 3")
3324
3325     print("Program Ended")
3326
3327

```

Figure 6 – Python Script Main Body

Python Script Testing

I executed the Python script using PyCharm (see Figure 8) and also tested it in the Windows Command Prompt (see Figure 9), verifying that the script performed as expected in both environments. Additionally, I confirmed that the Enrollments.json file was updated correctly and contained the expected output (see Figure 10). Following the assignment instructions, I used a initial Enrollments.json. The original content of this file is shown in Figure 7.

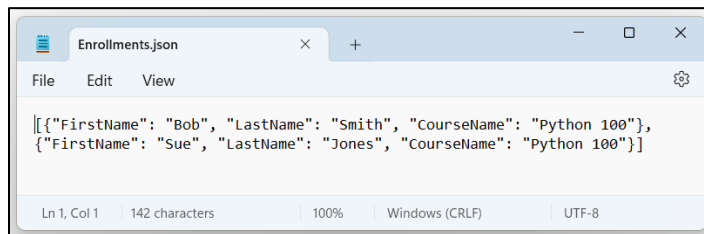


Figure 7 – Initial Enrollment File Python



Figure 8 – Python Script PyCharm Run

```
Command Prompt
D:\UW\IT FDN 110 A\Module07-1\Module07\Assignment\Assignment07>python Assignment07.py

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:
1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.
-----

What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Michael
Enter the student's last name: Scott
Please enter the name of the course: Python 100

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:
1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.
-----

What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Dwight
Enter the student's last name: Schrute
Please enter the name of the course: Python 100

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:
1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.
-----

What would you like to do: 2
-----
Student Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Student Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
Student Michael Scott is enrolled in Python 100
Student Dwight Schrute is enrolled in Python 100
-----

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:
1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.
-----

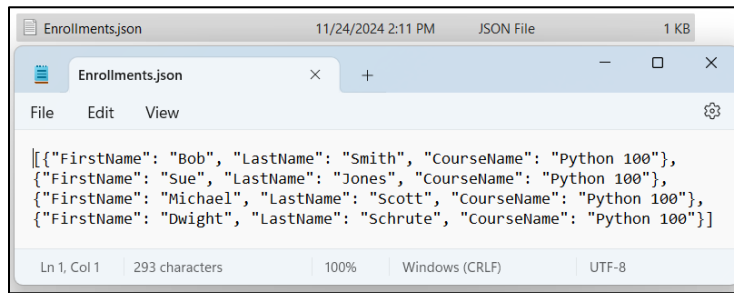
What would you like to do: 3
-----
Student Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Student Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100
Student Michael Scott is enrolled in Python 100
Student Dwight Schrute is enrolled in Python 100
-----

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:
1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.
-----

What would you like to do: 4
Program Ended
```

Figure 9 – Python Script Windows Command Prompt Run

Figure 10 shows that the Enrollments.json file was updated correctly with the two new student data.



```
Enrollments.json
11/24/2024 2:11 PM
JSON File
1 KB

Enrollments.json
File Edit View

[{"FirstName": "Bob", "LastName": "Smith", "CourseName": "Python 100"},
{"FirstName": "Sue", "LastName": "Jones", "CourseName": "Python 100"},
{"FirstName": "Michael", "LastName": "Scott", "CourseName": "Python 100"},
{"FirstName": "Dwight", "LastName": "Schrute", "CourseName": "Python 100"}]

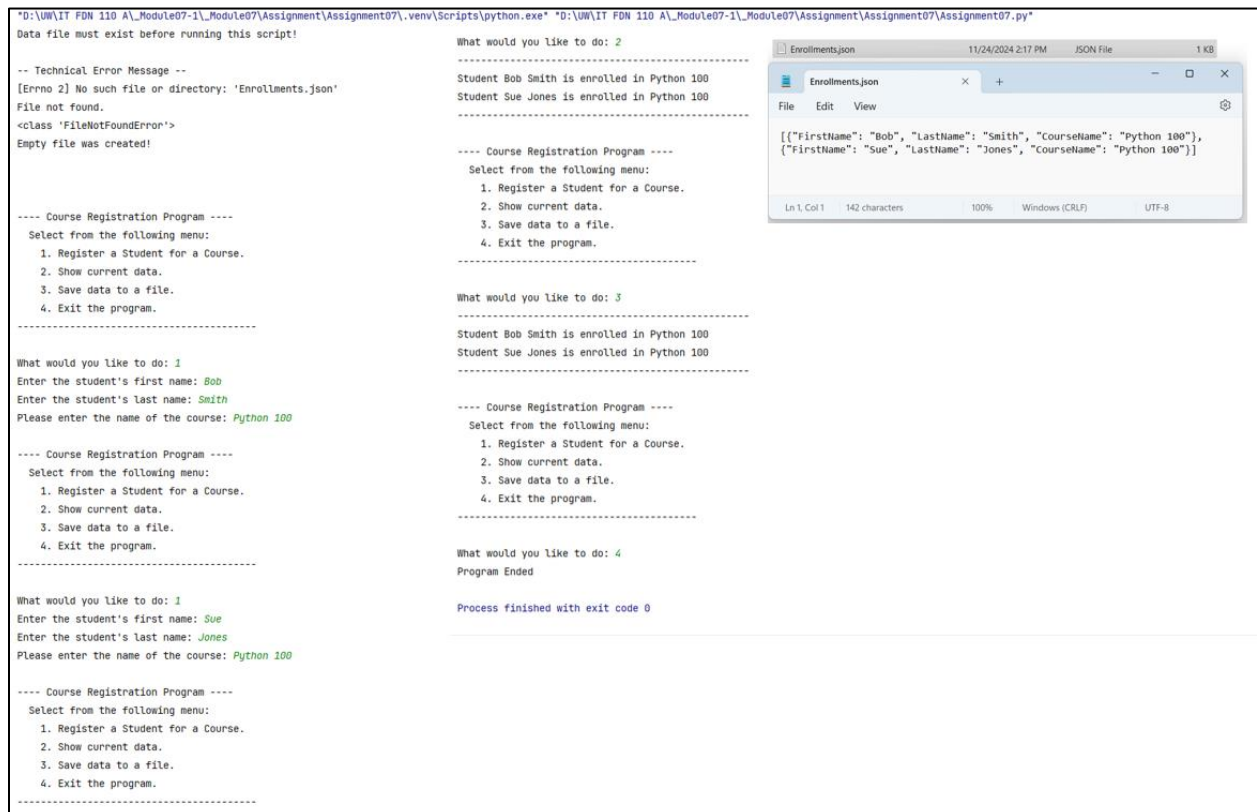
Ln 1, Col 1 293 characters 100% Windows (CRLF) UTF-8
```

Figure 10 – Output JSON File Content

Python Script Error Handling Test

After testing the script with valid user inputs using a pre-existing Enrollments.json file, I evaluated its error-handling capabilities for scenarios such as a "file not found" exception and invalid first and last name inputs. All tests were conducted using PyCharm.

The Figure 11 below shows the FileNotFoundError handling and the Enrolments.json being updated correctly after menu choice 3 is selected.



```
"D:\UW\IT_FDN_110_A\Module07-1\Module07\Assignment\Assignment07\.venv\Scripts\python.exe" "D:\UW\IT_FDN_110_A\Module07-1\Module07\Assignment\Assignment07\Assignment07.py"
Data file must exist before running this script!

-- Technical Error Message --
[Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'Enrollments.json'
File not found.
<class 'FileNotFoundError'>
Empty file was created!

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:
1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.

What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Bob
Enter the student's last name: Smith
Please enter the name of the course: Python 100

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:
1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.

What would you like to do: 1
Enter the student's first name: Sue
Enter the student's last name: Jones
Please enter the name of the course: Python 100

---- Course Registration Program ----
Select from the following menu:
1. Register a Student for a Course.
2. Show current data.
3. Save data to a file.
4. Exit the program.

What would you like to do: 2
Student Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Student Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100

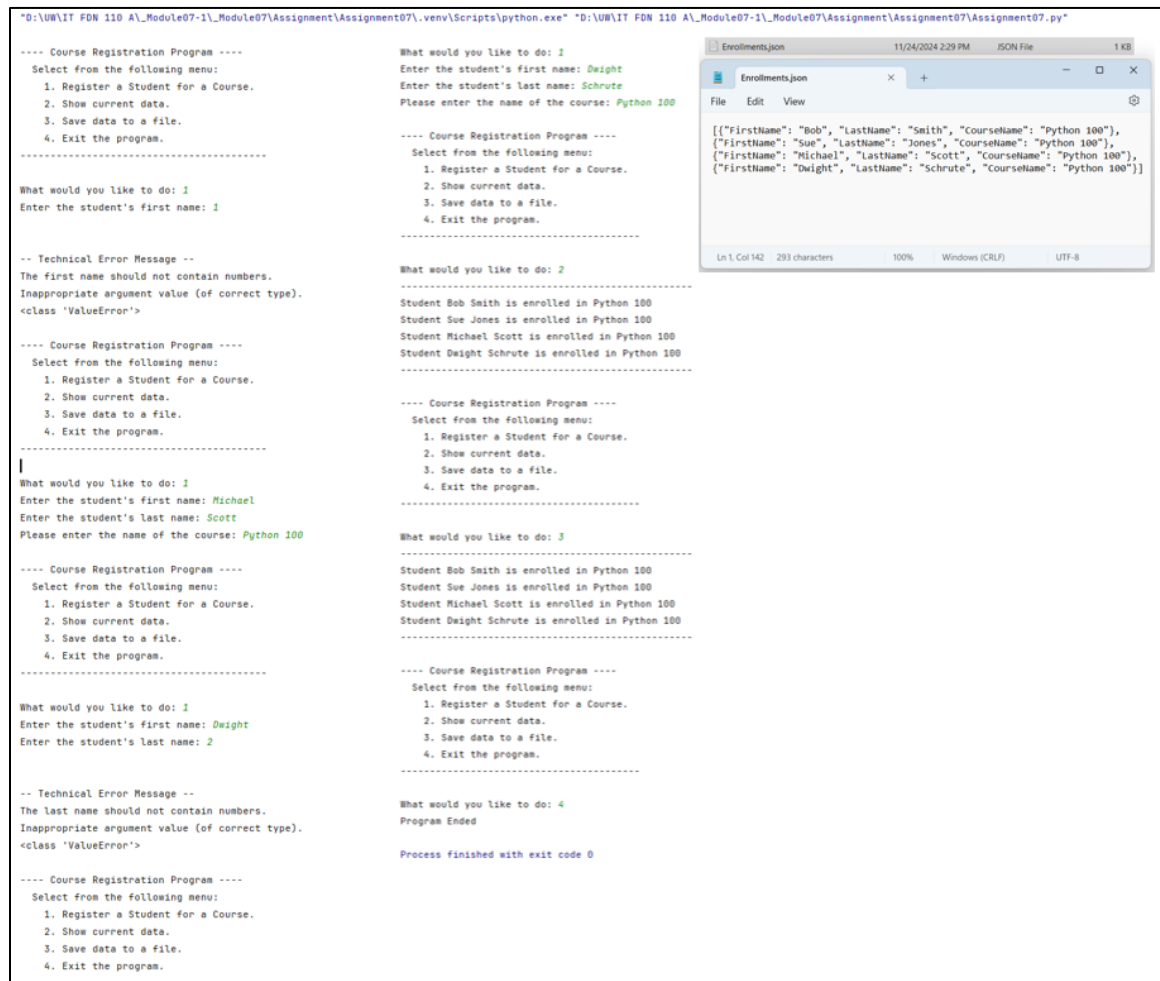
What would you like to do: 3
Student Bob Smith is enrolled in Python 100
Student Sue Jones is enrolled in Python 100

What would you like to do: 4
Program Ended

Process finished with exit code 0
```

Figure 11 – FileNotFoundError Handling

The second error handling test involved checking the condition where the user enters non-alphabetic characters for the first or last names (see Figure 12). The Enrollments.json file was also correctly updated



The screenshot shows a terminal window with a Python script titled "Course Registration Program". The script prompts the user to select from a menu (1. Register a Student for a Course, 2. Show current data, 3. Save data to a file, 4. Exit the program). The user enters '1'. The script then prompts for the student's first name, last name, and course name. The user enters 'Dwight', 'Schrute', and 'Python 100'. The script then displays a list of enrolled students: Bob Smith, Sue Jones, Michael Scott, and Dwight Schrute. The user enters '2' to show current data, and the script displays the same list of students. The user enters '3' to save data to a file, and the script displays the same list of students. The user enters '4' to exit the program, and the script displays "Program Ended" and "Process finished with exit code 0".

Technical Error Message --
The first name should not contain numbers.
Inappropriate argument value (of correct type).
<class 'ValueError'>

Technical Error Message --
The last name should not contain numbers.
Inappropriate argument value (of correct type).
<class 'ValueError'>

Enrollments.json

```
[{"firstName": "Bob", "lastName": "Smith", "courseName": "Python 100"}, {"firstName": "Sue", "lastName": "Jones", "courseName": "Python 100"}, {"firstName": "Michael", "lastName": "Scott", "courseName": "Python 100"}, {"firstName": "Dwight", "lastName": "Schrute", "courseName": "Python 100"}]
```

Figure 12 – Non-Alphabetic Characters Error Handling

GitHub

Script and documentation for this assignment is available in my GitHub site:

<https://github.com/rfnaval/IntroToProg-Python-Mod07.git>

Summary

This assignment built upon the previous one, providing an opportunity to learn and practice key Python concepts such as data classes, their private attributes, constructors, “self” keyword, “getter” and “setter” properties, the inheritance concept, and overriding methods. It was very interesting to work with tables (list of lists) containing objects instead of dictionaries, and to modify the FileProcessor and IO classes, along with the script main body to work with objects as well.

References

1. Module 07 - Classes and Objects, Randal Root, January 02, 2024.
2. External site: [Python OOP Tutorial 1: Classes and Instances](#), Corey Schafer.