

Python Online Resources

PMDS - Fall 2015

16:137:603

Due: October 20, 2015

Python has a wide variety of resources available online to assist beginning programmers who are learning the Python programming language. From simple quizzes and online books to full college courses that you can attend virtually (I won't have you do that, you have my class to contend with), the web is full of Python resources.

For this project you will spend at least two hours each with the three different online resources listed below:

MIT's 2008 Intro to Computer Science - Lectures 2 & 3 - Watch the second and the third lectures from MIT's CS and Intro to programming lectures fm 2008.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pij6J0HsYFA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6ilT3uUOBo>)

Learn Python the Hard Way - Learn Python the Hard Way (it's a joke) is a series of small chapters that give you Python programs to type in (never cut and paste, that's the LPTHW rule!) and learn Python along the way. Do the first ten chapters. Explore more if you'd like to.

(<http://learnpythonthehardway.org/book/>)

NOTE: LPTHW is written using Python 2.7. Just wrap all the print statement contents in parenthesis (make "print "test" - print("test"))

Code Academy - Create an ID (it's free) and do 20% of Code Academy's Python Track. Code Academy will keep track of what you've done so don't think you have to do it for 2 hours straight. Do a little every day until you get there (Go to the end of Conditionals & Control Flow, after the PygLatin section)

<https://www.codecademy.com/en/tracks/python>

After interacting with all three resources write a four page double spaced (12 pt font, 1" margins) report detailing the pros and cons of all three sites. Do you think that using these resources is a good way to learn Python? Rank them from first to third and defend your position. Discuss how you think the kind of learning you did with these resources compares with the traditional instruction you receive in high school or university. I will not be a stickler for style, but go APA if you cite sources other than the three Python resources.