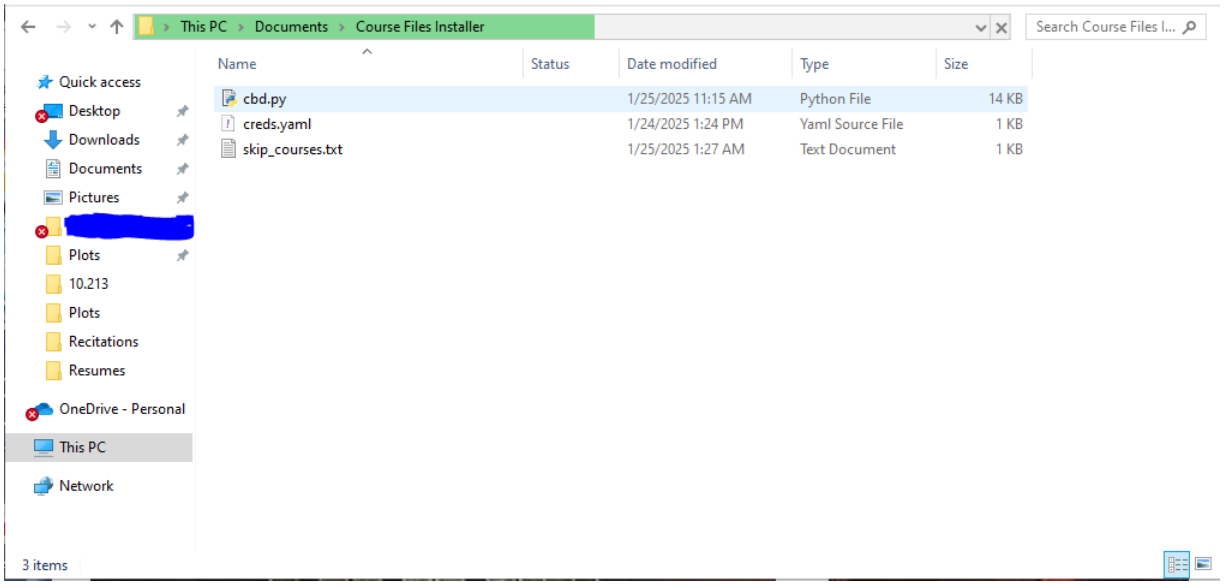
Smah Riki January 25, 2025

Using Canvas Bulk Downloader

Note: Make sure you have an IDE that can run Python code! This will be required to run the files below (I recommend VSCode if you don't have one already!)

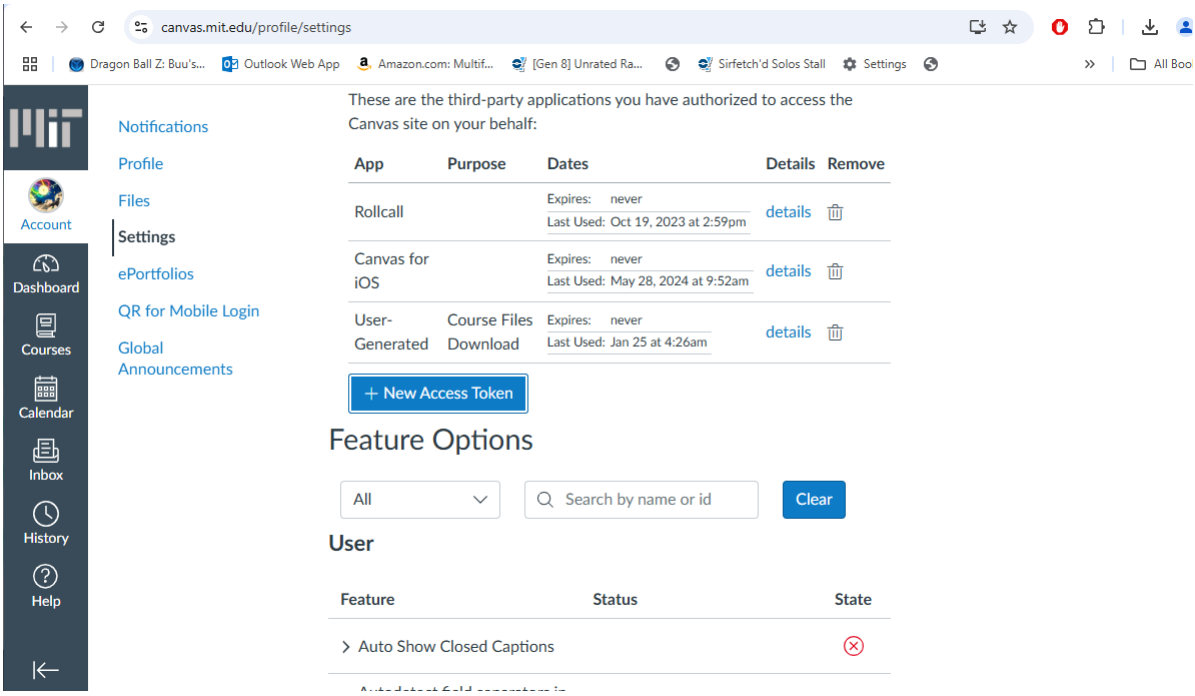
Also note that this will only download files under "Modules", "Assignments", and "Files" (for the classes that have this); it will not download any of your submissions, nor will it download grades or announcements.



Once you have downloaded and placed all three files in a directory of your choosing (does not have to be the same location you want your course files to be downloaded, but the three files must be in the same place), do the following before you run your python file:

1 *(Generate a new Canvas access token)*

Go to your Canvas homepage. From there, go to Account -¿ Settings, scroll down to Approved Integrations, and hit "+ New Access Token" (pictured below).



You will get a very long string of characters, which you should copy for the next step.

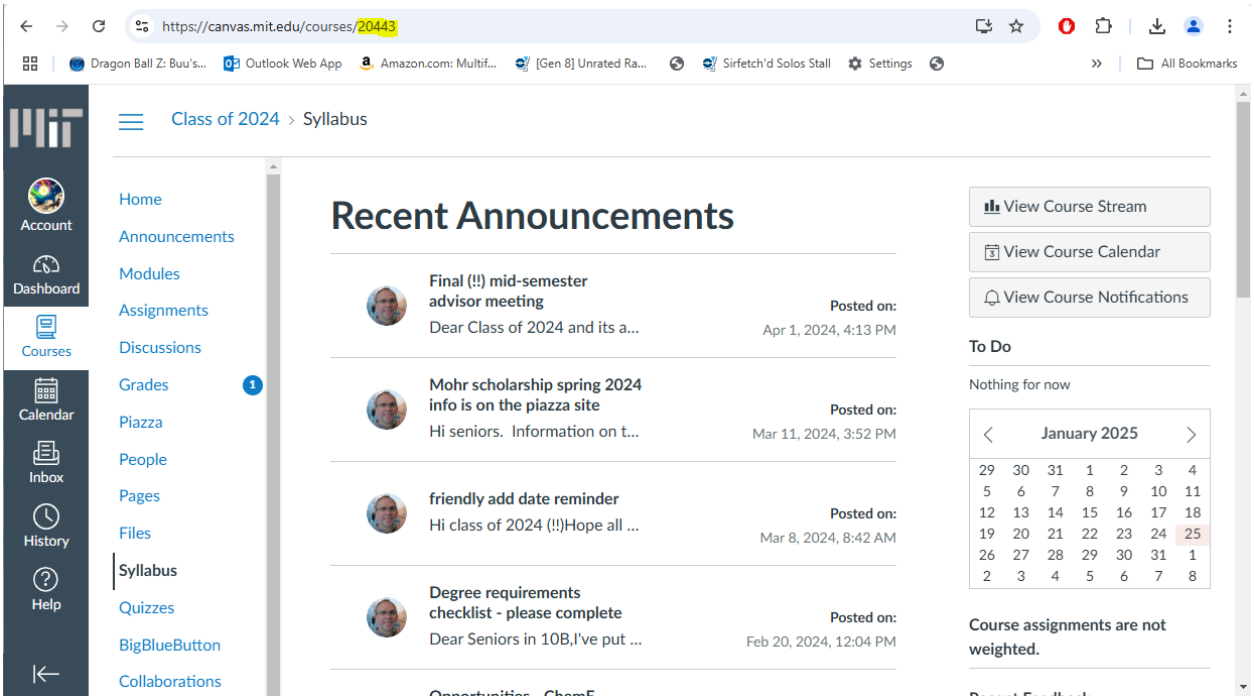
2 *(Fill in the relevant fields in creds.yaml)*

Open creds.yaml and paste the access token into the 'KEY' field. Make sure that the token is enclosed in quotations! (single vs double quotes don't matter)

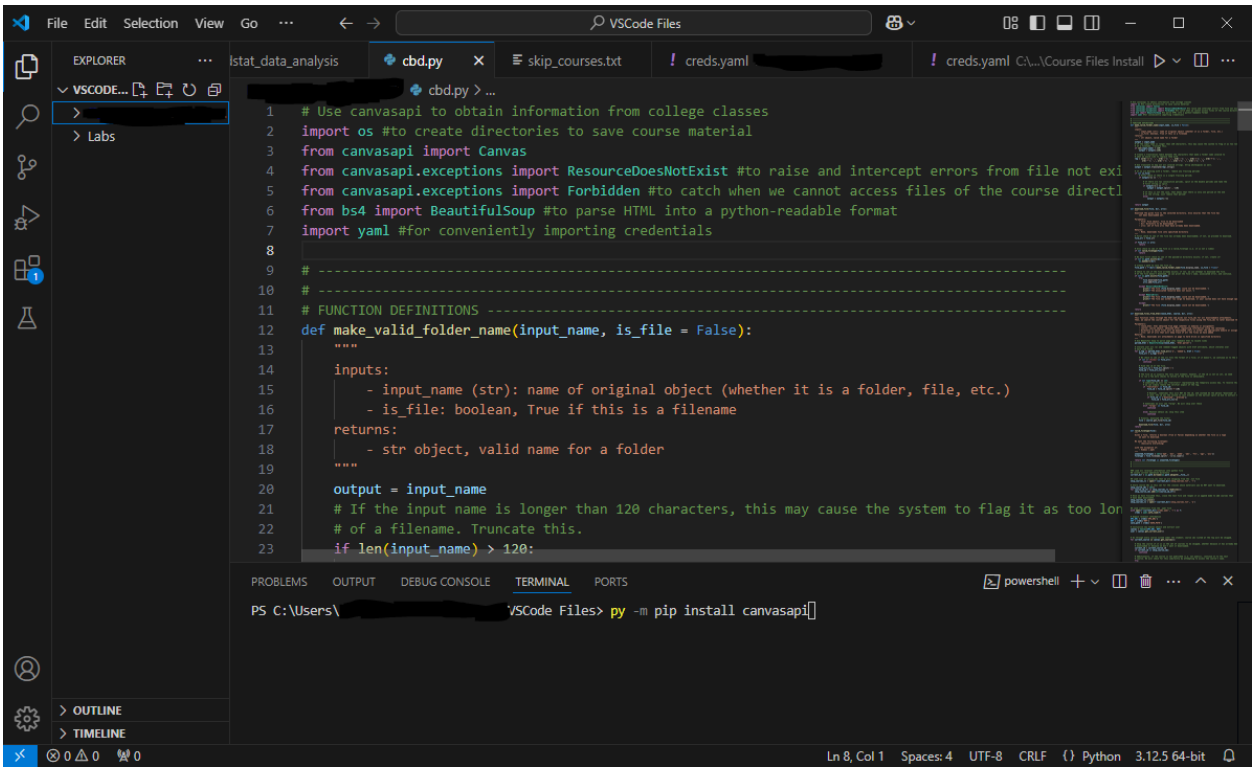
Additionally, fill in the 'SAVE_PATH' field with the location you want to save your course materials in.

3 *(Select courses you would like to skip downloading)*

Open the skip_courses text file. If there are any courses you want to skip in the downloading process, put the course's id on a new line in this text file. The course id can be found at the end of the url when you are at the home page for the class.


https://canvas.mit.edu/courses/20443
Class of 2024 › Syllabus
Account
Dashboard
Courses
Calendar
Inbox
History
Help
Home
Announcements
Modules
Assignments
Discussions
Grades
Piazza
People
Pages
Files
Syllabus
Quizzes
BigBlueButton
Collaborations
Recent Announcements
Final (!!) mid-semester advisor meeting
Dear Class of 2024 and its a...
Posted on: Apr 1, 2024, 4:13 PM
Mohr scholarship spring 2024 info is on the piazza site
Hi seniors. Information on t...
Posted on: Mar 11, 2024, 3:52 PM
friendly add date reminder
Hi class of 2024 (!!)Hope all ...
Posted on: Mar 8, 2024, 8:42 AM
Degree requirements checklist - please complete
Dear Seniors in 10B,I've put ...
Posted on: Feb 20, 2024, 12:04 PM
View Course Stream
View Course Calendar
View Course Notifications
To Do
Nothing for now
January 2025
Course assignments are not weighted.

skip_courses.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
00000
20443
Ln 2, Col 6
100%
Windows (CRLF)
UTF-8



4 *(Install the necessary packages to run the file)*

Open the Python file in your IDE, and install the following packages:

- canvasapi
- bs4 (this is to help parse html into a format readable by Python)
- yaml (this is to help read information from the file where you input your Canvas token and destination directory)

Use pip install in your terminal to do this! Pictured above is what it looks like on my end (note that the terminal is just the bottle third of the picture, and the command I am using is 'py -m pip install (insert package you want to install)'

And that's it! You can now run the file and wait for everything to be downloaded! Note that the python file will print into the terminal the name of the files it could not download, so you can later go into canvas to manually attempt to download these files. Furthermore, if the code stops, running it again will resume with the course it was downloading last!