# Instructor: **Professor Gary C. Thai**

Contact Information: **Blackboard** (Course Mail & Discussions**)**

Emergency Contact: [thai365@gmail.com](mailto:thai365@gmail.com)

(301) 246-0510

Virtual Office (Zoom): **Zoom Meeting for both Virtual Office Hours and REMOTE Classes when we meet** (throughout the entire semester)

<https://montgomerycollege.zoom.us/j/98984792364?pwd=b3lYMUxnYi8xZG9zNkw4ZWdpT2E1dz09>

Visit Blackboard for the most current Zoom link

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesday: 5p – 6:30p

Wednesday: 7p – 9p

Thursday: 5p – 6:30p

Or by appointments

Department Info: Phone: (240) 567-5230

Location: SC 436 (Science Center)

# Course Information

### Duration: 8/28/23 – 12/17/23

### Meeting Time: 206DL: None | Distance Learning (DL) Course[[1]](#footnote-1)

206Thu: Thursday, 6:30p – 9:50p via Zoom

### Location: Blackboard & Zoom

Prerequisite(s): None

# Course Description

Comprehensively covers the Python programming environment and features. Topics include fundamental programming concepts such as variables, data types, assignments, arrays, conditionals, loops, functions, and I/O operations using Python. Using the Python language, students are expected to code, load, execute, debug, and document programs. Students develop computational thinking skills and an understanding of the role of software programming in the larger social and organizational context.

This is a hands-on course. Students will analyze, design, and develop code to solve real-world problems utilizing Python.

Students will also be accessing Blackboard, Zoom and Examity throughout the term,

# Course Materials

Textbook: Python for Everybody (available for free)

URL: <https://www.py4e.com/book>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjeNA\_JtXME&list=PLlRFEj9H3Oj7Bp8-DfGpfAfDBiblRfl5p&index=2

# Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

* Demonstrate the implementation of abstract data types, such as list, stack, queue, priority queue, binary search tree, graph, and heap
* Develop and enhance non-technical skills
* Speak and discuss about the course topics with sufficient proficiency
* Develop computer programs using Python by applying fundamental programming concepts such as variables, data types, assignments, arrays, conditionals, loops, functions, and input/output operations and test the quality of programs
* Write clear and effective in-code comments and other documentation
* Apply computational thinking techniques to analyze problems and develop computational solutions
* Explain how programming is situated in and reflects social issues (e.g. racism or sexism) and describe actions that individuals or organizations are taking to counteract disparities and inequities in software and programming/technical organizations
* Collaborate in a group environment (group project)

Purpose of Course Syllabus and Blackboard Posts (Messages)

Our course’s goals, objectives, policies, procedures and expectations are articulated in both this syllabus and online in Blackboard. The instructor is committed to communicate course information clearly and transparently. **Each student MUST read all of the provided information thoroughly and carefully.**

Assessments

Students will be required to complete weekly assignments, including “discussions”, hands-on assignments; as well as projects and exams throughout the semester.

Assignments: ~40%

Quizzes: ~15%

Exam 1: ~15%

Exam 2: ~15%

Group Project: ~15%

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100%

# Course Grade & Good Faith Attempt (GFA) Requirement

The final course grade will be determined using the following scale if all project submissions also satisfy the GFA Requirement –

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Expectation |
| A | >= 90% (of the total accumulated points) |
| B | Between 80% and 89.9% |
| C | Between 70% and 79.9% |
| D | Between 60% and 69.9% |
| F | <= 59.9% |

I have established grading standards and I will apply them consistently throughout the semester. Being closed to a cutoff (border line) grade is not the same as making the cut (89.9 ≠ 90.00). **I will assign final course grades fairly, however, I will not respond to any grade adjustment requests at the end of the semester** (unless it’s an arithmetic error).

Assignment & Participation Expectations

##### **All assignments, including examinations, must be submitted (completed) on time – Late assignments will NOT be accepted.** All assignments will be available online (on Blackboard), and their respective due dates will be clearly specified.

Any in-class activities must be completed during class, and we will use a mixture of lectures, discussions and hands-on activities during class each week helping students to learn the course materials. No make-up work will be provided for any missed in-class activities since students are expected to attend all scheduled classes.

For Distance Learning (DL) classes, each student is expected to participate actively online. How? Visit our online classroom three or more days each week – read and respond to others’ posts, post questions for others to consider – **stay engaged**.

To do well in this course, commit yourself and complete assignments regularly. Make it a point to learn something every day.

# Exam Policy

Unless it’s specified otherwise, all examinations are closed book, closed notes, **and Internet and IDE usages are NOT allowed.**

**No make-up exams will be provided** **as exam dates will be announced in advance.**  Unless it’s a life changing event, I will NOT make any exception on this matter. If the Final Exam is not completed, a failing course grade (F) will be assigned. Consult your instructor immediately to discuss any potential exam related issues.

**For our Distance Learning class**, each exams must be completed –

* Utilizing the **Examity** service, or
* at one of the **MC Assessment Centers**

**Examity is a proctoring service.** See my online post to learn more about it.

# Accessing Blackboard Directly to Sign-in

Should **MyMC** be unavailable, you might be able to access Blackboard directly by -

* Visit <https://bb-montgomerycollege.blackboard.com/>
* Change the **Sign in with third-party account** (Dropdown selection) to **MyMCCredentials**
  + You will then be redirected to a page where you can sign in as you normally do using your MyMC credential

# Communicating with the Instructor

**The best way to reach me is through Blackboard (Course Mail and Discussions)**. I typically visit Blackboard 1st thing in the morning, four or more weekdays each week. I will respond to any Blackboard inquiries by the following business day or sooner.

You should only reach out to me by phone or email for urgent matters. My responses to these inquiries are much slower – up to two business days.

# Attendance

Except for DL classes, students are **required** to attend all scheduled class sessions. **Excessive Absence** is defined as missing more than 20% of the scheduled classes or two classes during the fall or spring semester.

The instructor could withdraw (drop) a student from the course if **Excessive Absence** had occurred. If the situation occurs after the deadline to drop a course, the instructor could assign a “F” course grade to the student.

# Academic Integrity

**MC, CMSC Department and I take Academic Integrity seriously.**

**Every student MUST complete each assignment on their own**.  You are encouraged to learn, study and discuss course materials with others, however, **providing or receiving solutions (including projects and answer keys), as well as allowing others to contribute to your assignments - constitute to academic dishonesty.**

For all programming assignments, one may receive insights, editing and debugging help from tutors, fellow students, acquaintances, or the Internet.  However, **code sharing, whether it’s sharing code with others or copying code from others, is not permitted.** Students should complete their own coding.  If the assignment uses programming features that have not yet been covered, the student will be asked to defend their work.

**The Department utilizes a software program to validate the integrity of all project submissions.**The software evaluates for similar programming constructs using Artificial Intelligence.  The product is very good at measuring percentage of similarities between different submissions.  I am required by the Dept to submit all projects assignments for validations.  **Just about every semester, one or more students had been flagged with violating the Academic Integrity Policy.**

Students who engage in any act that the instructor deems as academic dishonesty or misconduct will be subjected to sanction.  Penalties include a grade of zero (0) on the assignment to an automatic failure for the course.  The incident will also be reported to the Department's Dean and the incident will be reflected on one's transcript.  **It will be STRICTLY enforce**d.

**The bottom line – Do your own work and don’t share any code with others.**

Review the Code of Conduct section of the Student Handbook if this message did not come across clearly.

* <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/_documents/admissions-registration/student-code-of-conduct.pdf>

# Getting Help

You are expected to take personal responsibility for you own learning. This includes acknowledging when your performance does not match your goals and doing something about it. If you need help, see your instructor as soon as you can. Everyone can benefit from some guidance, but don’t wait until the end of the semester to do so. It will be too late then!

**I want to ensure that each student can achieve their highest possible outcome**.

# Course Changes

The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule if necessary and he will notify the class prior to doing so.

# Computer Labs

Computer labs are available to students to use throughout MC campuses. Consult with the instructor for additional information, if needed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Course Location* | *Lab Location* | *Overflow Lab* | *Office Location/Phone* |
| HU building | H314 | H312 | H307/ 567-5187 |
| CS building | CS25/26 & CS21A | H314 | CS19 / 567-5156 |

Tutoring  
Tutors are available in the Ackerman Learning Center.

# Standards of College Behavior

Montgomery College seeks to provide an environment where discussion and expression of all views relevant to course subject matter are encouraged. However, students do not have the right to interfere with the faculty’s right to teach the course. Faculty and staff set the standards of behavior that are within the guidelines and spirit of the Student Code of Conduct or other College policies for classrooms, events, offices, and areas, by announcing or posting these standards early in the semester.

# Delayed Opening or Closing of the College

Montgomery College will always operate on its regular schedule unless otherwise announced. Depending on the nature of the incident, notifications of emergencies and changes to the College’s operational status will be communicated through one or more communication methods including the College’s web page <http://montgomerycollege.edu>

For the most up-to-date information regarding College openings, closings, or emergencies, all students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign up for email and text alerts via Montgomery College ALERT. Registration information is available at [*www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency*](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency)

# Disability Support Services

Any student who needs an accommodation due to a disability should make an appointment to see the course instructor during office hours. In order to receive accommodations, a letter from Disability Support Services (LOCATIONS: Germantown-SA 189; Rockville-CB 122; or Takoma Park/Silver Spring-ST 122) will be needed. Furthermore, any student who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation must identify to the Disability Support Services Office; guidelines for emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities are found at: [http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary5.aspx?urlid=52](http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary5.aspx?urlid=52%20)

# Important Student Information Links

In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The link below provides information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change, they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

* <https://info.montgomerycollege.edu/resources/faculty-handbook/montgomery-college-syllabus-template.html>

# Veteran’s Services

If you are a veteran or on active or reserve status and you are interested in information regarding opportunities, programs and/or services, please visit the Combat2College Web site at<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college/>

# Basic Needs Statement

“Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the *Dean of Students Affairs* on your campus. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable the professor to provide any resources that they may possess.  We know this can affect performance in the course and Montgomery College is committed to your success.”

# Student Health & Wellness / Fuel for Success

This website offers information about resources for food on our campuses and in the community and has links for community resources. The site offers the schedule for the mobile markets, locations of the food pantries as well as a link for those who wish to contribute their time or money to support our students

* https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/life-at-mc/student-health-and-wellness/fuel-for-success-food-campaign.html

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week of** | **Topic(s)** | **Reading[[2]](#footnote-2)** |
|  |  |  |
| 8/28/23 | Variables, expressions, statements & conditionals, Exception Handling (Module 1) | PY4E Ch. 2 & 3 |
|  | Introduction & Course Overview (Module 0) | PY4E Ch. 1 |
|  |  |  |
| 9/5/23 | Functions and Iterations | Module 2 |
|  |  |  |
| 9/11/23 | Strings & Lists | Module 3 |
|  |  |  |
| 9/18/23 | Files | Module 4 |
|  |  |  |
| 9/25/23 | Dictionaries | Module 5 |
|  |  |  |
| 10/2/23 | Tuples | Module 6 |
|  |  |  |
| 10/9/23 | **Exam 1 (Modules 1 – 6, including Tuples)** |  |
|  |  |  |
| 10/16/23 | Regular Expressions | Module 7 |
|  |  |  |
| 10/23/23 | Search Engines | Module 8 |
|  |  |  |
| 10/30/23 | Introduction to Pandas | [Module](https://www.learndatasci.com/tutorials/python-pandas-tutorial-complete-introduction-for-beginners/) 9 |
|  |  |  |
| 11/6/23 | Matplotlib | Visualization | Module 10 |
|  |  |  |
| 11/13/23 | Introduction to Web Services | Module 11 (1 of 2) |
|  |  |  |
| 11/20/23 | **Thanksgiving Break | No Class** |  |
|  |  |  |
| 11/27/23 | Using Web Services | Module 11 (2 of 2) |
|  |  |  |
| 12/4/23 | **Group Project Demos** |  |
|  |  |  |
| 12/11/23 | **Exam 2 (Comprehensive Exam) | Final Exam Week** |  |
|  |  |  |

# Let’s Get Started!

**Log-on to Blackboard and visit our online environment to proceed! Make it a point to do so regularly.**

1. DL students are encouraged to visit the instructor during office hours [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Assignments and due dates are subject to change as necessary. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)