

Syllabus
CIS 1051 - Intro to Problem Solving and
Programming - Python

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- Uttering some variation of the phrase “I did not know we needed to demo our assignments to receive credit” after the first exam **will be grounds for an instant F in the course**, for failure to read directions, a problem with potentially lethal consequences in programming.
- Sign up for the textbook at **https://runestone.academy** using the course name **cis1051**

1 Course Details

An introduction to the discipline of programming for nonprogrammer and programmers alike. The objective of this course is to give nonprogrammers a sufficient amount of programming experience to apply programming techniques to common tasks at work and also enough experience for a student to begin teaching their selves more. Students in the CIS program will learn the basics of programming a tons of concepts that will useful throughout their studies. This is a 4 credit-hour course. This means that up to 8-12 hours of work each week outside of lecture.

Time and Place

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:20 SERC 116

Labs

001 Monday 3pm in SERC 204

002 Friday 1pm in SERC 204

003 Monday 10am in SERC 359

004 Friday 9am in SERC 204

006 Friday 11am in SERC 206

007 Thursday 9am in SERC 204

Prerequisites

C or better in Mathematics 1021 or higher. Students are expected to know how to use a computer. A laptop is strongly recommended, especially since we are utilizing an online text.¹

¹If you cannot afford a computer, please see me as soon as possible to discuss solutions, which range from 200 to 400 USD.

Resources and Textbook

The most important resources for the class, such as the recordings and the code done in class can be found on the “Pages” tab of your Canvas course website.

This course is participating in the Textbook Affordability Project, which aims to provide free and open texts for students. My course uses the following textbook:

- “Foundations of Python Programming”
<https://runestone.academy>
 sign up and enter `cis1051` for the course name to access the textbook site.

If you need additional reference, you can look at these books, which can be found for free at the links below and are also available in hard copy for \$20-30.

- Al Sweigart: “Automate the Boring Stuff with Python”
<https://automatetheboringstuff.com/>
- Allen Downey: “Think Python: How to Think Like a Computer Scientist”
<http://greenteapress.com/wp/think-python-2e/>.

Finally, be sure to consult the official python documentation online (you can download a local copy), as well as the tutorial, which can be found at:

- <https://docs.python.org/3/>
- <https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/index.html>

I will be roughly following the material presented in Sweigart’s book.

Some content, such as turtles, won’t be found in the textbook or might be done differently.

Office Hours

My office is SERC 349. My office hours are Wednesday 12:00-3:00, no appointment or advance notice needed. If you cannot meet me during my office hours or want to meet me for help at some other time, please email me to arrange an appointment at any time. I can meet via video chat at late hours if you need.

TA Information

TAs will be present during labs to assist you. You can walk in for office hours during these times, or make an appointment at an alternate time. You can meet with a TA listed below even if you are not in their section.

TA	Email	Office Hours	Office Location
Sai Shi	sai.shi@temple.edu	TBA	TBA
Yanlong Qiu	yanlong.qiu@temple.edu	Friday 1:00-3:00	SERC 360
Vivek Trivedy	tug57226@temple.edu	TBA	SERC 383
Catherine Schaper	catcat@temple.edu	TBA	SERC 383
Joanne Nichols	nichols@temple.edu	Friday 11:00-1:00	SERC 319

Executive Summary

- Don't cheat.
- Expect a new lab/homework and quiz each week.
- The lectures will be recorded.
- Turn in your work on time.
- Don't ignore errors as you code.
- It's okay to turn in work late for a mild penalty.
- You need to show me your work to actually get a grade.
- Exams are most of your grade.
- **Never be afraid to ask questions or ask for help. I will not think less of you.**

2 Expectations

Attendance

Attendance is expected for your lectures. If you arrive late, I understand; please do your best to enter quietly. Lectures will cover more content than is present in the book and it is highly unlikely you will succeed without attending lectures. I am also prone to mentioning what will and won't be on the test, up to and including exact questions.

Illness

If you are sick, please do not come to class. I have an infant at home and I do not want him to get what you have. Do what you need to do to get healthy, watch the lecture online, and let me know what you need for me to help you.

Academic Honesty

Temple University believes strongly in academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism and academic cheating are, therefore, prohibited.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or another person's assistance. Academic cheating is, generally, the thwarting or breaking of the general rules of academic work or the specific rules of the individual courses. It includes falsifying data; submitting, without the instructor's approval, work in one course which was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or actually doing the work of another person.

The penalty for academic dishonesty can vary from receiving a reprimand and a failing grade for a particular assignment, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or expulsion from the university. The penalty varies with the nature of the offense, the individual instructor, the department, and the school or college.

Refer to the following link for the full TU policy on plagiarism and academic cheating by clicking [here](#)

When in doubt, provide a citation. Working with others and creating your own unique solutions is not cheating. We encourage you to ask your classmates for help and to collaborate. Copying someone else's work is cheating and will be dealt with accordingly.

Disabilities

Temple University is committed to the inclusion of students with disabilities and provides accessible instruction, including accessible technology and instructional materials. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an academic accommodation, you are encouraged to contact May Watabe (DRS Coordinator at TUJ, tujdrs@tuj.temple.edu) as early as possible, before or at any point in the semester. Disability Resources and Services will verify your

disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. You are also encouraged to communicate directly with your professor at any point in this process. For more information, visit: <http://disabilityresources.temple.edu/>

Recordings

I will be recording my lectures. You may make your own recordings of the lecture, but please tell me. The official school policy is “Recording of this class is permitted with instructor’s permission, but only for personal use. Dissemination, broadcast, or transmission for non-personal, non-academic use will result in disciplinary action taken under the Student Code of Conduct.”

3 Grading

Letter grades will be assigned at no higher than A \geq 90, B \geq 80, etc. In general, you need above a 70 to pass the class. The DFW rate for similar courses in previous semesters has consistently been around is approximately 30% for large classes.

There will be extra credit opportunities available in on exams and on assignments. I will not give out extra assignments or tests for you to make up your grade, but I usually drop a lab. Plus/minus grading will be used. Your final grade in the class will be the average of each item, weighted accordingly.

Assignments	25 %
Exercises	5 %
Quizzes	5 %
Exams	35 %
Final Exam	30 %

4 Exercises

Exercises will be assigned in the online textbook. Please do them as they are assigned.

5 Quizzes

Quizzes will be given in class. They will be done on Canvas, so you will need a phone or a computer. They will not be announced and double as an attendance grade.

Compilation

Programming assignments are expected to run without unforeseen errors (it’s okay for your program to crash if someone inputs the wrong kind of data). If

your program crashes unexpectedly, I cannot grade it. **You will receive a zero for the assignment if your program fails to run due to a syntax error.**

If you have trouble fixing an error, do the following:

- Read the error and find the line number.
- Check that your parenthesis/braces/brackets match.
- Use Google.
- Email your TA or me.

File Formats

When submitting programming assignments, you must submit your source code and not the compiled program. Your source code must be a *.py* file, not a *.pyc* file. **If you submit a .txt, .doc, .rtf, or anything else that is not a .py file, you will receive a zero for that assignment.**

Turning in

To get a grade on your assignment, it must be

1. Submitted online to Canvas. This is so we have an electronic “paper trail” for your assignment.
2. Demoed to the me. Demoing your work involves showing that your program works, explaining pieces of your source code, and answering some questions. Demoing can be done before, during, or after class, or during office hours, or during lab.

We accept your late work.

Late Policy

Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty, as described below.

$$grade = score \cdot 0.95^l$$

Where l is the number of days late. While this looks a bit intimidating, this scheme does provide more points than just a straight deduction every day. **It is your responsibility to demo late work. Work not demoed will receive a 0 at the end of the course.**

Late grades are determined by when you turn it in, not when you demo it, but the sooner you demo, the sooner you can correct a possible mistake. Late work can be turned in up to 10 days late at most. You have up to a month after the due date to demo your lab.

Example

Alice turns in an assignment that would have gotten an 100, but it's 5 days late. Her grade is

$$100 \cdot 0.95^5 = 77.38$$

A 77 isn't ideal, but it's within striking range of a B and a great deal more than 0.

6 Exams

Formal exams account for half your grade. Practice exams will be provided and reviewed. These practice exams will be an excellent approximation of the actual exam, so be sure to use them. Please do not miss any exam. Makeup exams will be given on a case by case basis.

You can expect two exams and a final, with the first exam occurring during the week 5 lab and the second occurring at the week 10 lab. This is subject to change.

6.1 Final Exam

Final exam details will be announced. The final will be cumulative and cover everything taught this semester.

6.2 Notes

You can bring in a single sheet of Letter, A4, or a comparable equivalent. You may use both sides and you can put anything you want on it.

7 Disclaimer

The syllabus is here to serve as a guide and may be subject to changes. Up to date information, assignments, and class material can be found on online.

This syllabus may be updated to reflect changes.

Students and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: <http://policies.temple.edu/PDF/99.pdf>.

8 Tips for Succeeding

- Don't be afraid to ask questions in class. If you have a question, I guarantee another student has the same question.
- This goes doubly so for math. If you don't understand or remember a concept when we bring it up *let us know*.
- Get into the habit of studying a couple of days early.
- Do your homework.
- Give yourself more time than you think you need.
- Use a clear, easy-to-read, monospaced font while coding.
- Do your homework.
- Ask questions. Take advantage of our office hours.
- Do your homework. In the previous classes I've taught, the vast majority of students who turned in all their homeworks managed to earn A's and B's, even when they had a bad day on a test.
- Likewise, not turning in homeworks corresponds very strongly with failing.
- Do your homework. Seriously. It is nigh impossible to pass without doing your homework.