

# Week 1

## 1. Reading: Welcome to The Class

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Welcome to Getting Started with Python, the first class in our Python for Everybody Specialization. We have built this class specifically for those with no prior programming experience. With a relatively simple book, and basic exercises that focus on the core concepts of programming, we hope that you will gain a solid understanding of the topics in this course and be well prepared to take the rest of the courses in the specialization.

We expect that someone who knows another programming language and is just trying to learn Python should be able to go through the material in this class in 2-3 weeks, while someone with no programming will take 5-6 weeks. Please take your time and learn these concepts well, as there is little value rushing towards the later classes without proper preparation.

We keep this first section as a source of course-wide material so you can come back and reference it as you need to throughout the class.

Note: The Open Michigan materials mentioned in the previous video are available at [www.py4e.com](http://www.py4e.com).

## 2. Welcome to Python3

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As of June 2017, the course is taught using Python 3. The Python community has been moving from Python 2 to Python 3 for a long time and we felt that it was time to convert our course. In a beginning course and this specialization, the differences between the two versions of Python are pretty minimal.

The **print** statement has become the print function. What this means is that this line in Python 2:

```
print "hello world"
```

is as follows in Python 3:

```
print("hello world")
```

The **raw\_input** function has also changed to **input**, so instead of:

```
raw_input('What is your name?')
```

you will see:

```
input('What is your name?')
```

The only other significant change is how Python handles various character sets like (次 - Tsugi) and (코스 - Koseu). You will learn more about this in the third and fourth classes in the specialization.

You might find that your job still wants to use Python 2. We believe that going from Python 3 to Python 2 is pretty easy - so don't worry too much about the version of Python that you learn when you are first starting out.

If you want to see the Python 2 materials and text book from the previous version of the course, an archive of that material continues to be available at <http://www.pythonlearn.com/>.

# 3. Textbook: Python for Everybody: Exploring Data in Python3

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Printed copies of "**Python for Everybody: Exploring Data In Python 3**" are available for \$10 or less from Amazon and \$2 or less on Kindle:

- [Amazon](#) / [Kindle](#)

Here are **free** copies of the book in various formats available at:

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

You can download all of the sample Python code from the book as well as licensed course materials from <http://www.py4e.com/materials>.

This course is in Python 3 and the textbook for this class is in Python 3. Prior to July 2017, this course was taught in Python 2 with the textbook "**Python for Informatics: Exploring Information**". This earlier Python 2 book has translations into Spanish, Korean, and Chinese. The Python 2 book and its translations are still available at the [www.pythonlearn.com](http://www.pythonlearn.com) web site.

All of the book materials are available under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License. The slides, audio, assignments, auto grader and all course materials other than the book are available from <http://www.py4e.com/materials> under the more flexible Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. If you are curious as to why the "NC" variant of Creative Commons was used, see Appendix D of the textbook or search through my [blog posts](#) for the string "copyright".

## 4. Audio Versions of All Lectures

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We have podcasts of audio versions of the course lectures available from several sources if you have the correct player. Sometimes you might find it useful to listen to the lectures without the slides to give you more exposure to the material.

- [iTunes Audio](#)
- [Google Play Audio](#)

This audio is from the lectures that come with the textbook "Python for Everybody: Exploring Information in Python 3" used in this course. So while the same material is covered, the lectures are not word-for-word the same as the lectures on Coursera.