CSE 1310 - 003 - Fall 2013 - Syllabus
Introduction to Computers and Programming

Course web page: http://vlm1.uta.edu/~alex/courses/f13_1310_003
Lecture times: Mon,Wed,Fri 1pm-1:50pm
Classroom: NH 112
Section: 003 (class number 81784)

Instructor:
Alexandra Stefan
E-mail: astefan@uta.edu
Office: ERB 644
Office hours (tentative): Wed,Fri: 11:30am - 12:30pm, Tue, Thu: 12:30pm - 1:30pm.

Teaching assistant (GTA):
TBA
E-mail: TBD
Office: TBD
Office hours: TBD.

Course Description

Description of Course Content:

This course introduces students to computers, to the algorithmic process, and to programming using basic control and data structures. The programming language used in this course is Python. Python versions 3.1 or 3.2 are recommended, but most likely other 3.x versions are also good. Any 2.x, or smaller, version will cause your program to not run on our machines, in which case you will not receive any credit for it.

Prerequisite: MATH 1302 (or concurrently)

Course Objectives:

- Introduction to programming.
- Introduction to the Python programming language.
- Learning good programming practices.

Student Learning Outcomes:
- Students will be able to develop algorithms for math functions (e.g. the factorial), processing of strings and lists, games (e.g. Tic-Tac-Toe, The Hangman) or basic functionality (e.g. a phonebook).
- They will be able to write and debug programs that implement the above mentioned algorithms.
- When reading Python code, students will be able to explain what each line of code does and how it affects the computer state.
- Students will be able to read and write text files using Python.
- They will know the basic principles for writing elegant code.

**Topics covered in this course:**

- Expressions, statements, variables, assignments, types.
- The boolean type, boolean expressions, logical operators.
- Conditionals.
- Loops.
- Strings.
- Lists.
- Functions.
- Program state and program execution.
- File input/output.
- Dictionaries.

## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programming Assignments</th>
<th>weekly</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Midterm</td>
<td>Friday, Sept 20, in classroom, during class hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Midterm</td>
<td>Friday, Oct 18, in classroom, during class hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Midterm</td>
<td>Friday, Nov 15, in classroom, during class hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Monday, December 9, 11am - 1:30pm, see the UTA schedule for updates</td>
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*These dates are tentative. The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*

All of the exams are cumulative (each exam will cover all the material discussed in class up to that date).

The lowest grade of the midterms can be replaced by the final exam grade (if it is higher). If two grades tie for the minimum, only one of them will be replaced. Low grades due to cheating in the exam will not be replaced.

**Other important dates:**
Sep 02 - Labor Day Holiday
Sep 09 - Census Date
Oct 30 - Last day to drop classes
Nov 28 - Thanksgiving Holidays
Nov 29 - Thanksgiving Holidays

Grading

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programming Assignments</th>
<th>20%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Any request for re-grading (for an assignment or exam) must be made within 7 days of receipt of that grade. In case of regrading, the instructor reserves the right to regrade the whole assignment or exam.

Submissions:
All assignments will be submitted online, using the Blackboard system.

Late submission policy:
All assignments are graded out of 100 points. Assignments submitted late will be penalized, at a rate of 11 penalty points per hour. The submission time will be the time shown on the Blackboard submission system. Any assignment submitted more than 9 hours late will receive no credit. Exceptions will only be made for documented emergencies, in strict adherence to UTA policy. Computer/network crashes are NOT an acceptable excuse for late submissions. To avoid problems with such crashes and last-minute problems, students are encouraged to submit early. You can always revise your submission till the deadline.

Make-up Exams
Make-up exams or any other additional work towards "improving ones grade" will not be offered.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:
Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 10 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is required for exams. Absences for exams will only be excused for medical or other emergencies, at the discretion of the instructor. All emergencies must be documented in writing (with official documents, e.g., doctor's note) and the instructor must be notified, as early as possible, BEFORE the exam day.

No late submissions will be accepted, except for documented emergencies according to UTA policy. Even in case of documented emergencies, the student should request permission from the instructor as early as possible. Computer/network crashes are not an acceptable excuse for late submissions.

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**University Policies and Services**

**Drop Policy:**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships ([http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao](http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao)).

**Americans With Disabilities Act:**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

> *I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of*
integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication:

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Student Feedback Survey:

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week:

One programming assignment will be due in the Final Review Week. This is in accordance to the UTA policy stated below.

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar
scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.