Comp 112: Introduction to Programming

Wesleyan University

Fall 2016

Instructors

Jeff Epstein  
jeepstein@wesleyan.edu  
Exley 637  
Wed. 1:00–3:00

Ed Morehouse  
emorehouse@wesleyan.edu  
Exley 645  
Tues. 1:00–3:00

Prof. Kelly M. Thayer  
kthayer@wesleyan.edu  
Exley 622  
Mon. 9:00–11:00

Course Assistants

Hannah Brigham  
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Griffin Deary  
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Hanna Elszasz  
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Emma Freeman  
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Franchesca Peña  
fpena@wesleyan.edu

Lectures

Tuesdays 8:50–10:10 Shanklin 107

Lab Sections

1. Thursdays 8:50–10:10 Exley 103 (Morehouse, Deary)
2. Thursdays 1:20–2:40 Exley 103 (Thayer, Freeman)
3. Thursdays 10:20–11:40 Exley 103 (Thayer, Freeman)
4. Thursdays 8:50–10:10 Exley 72 (Thayer, Peña)
5. Thursdays 2:50–4:10 Exley 72 (Thayer, Peña)
6. Thursdays 8:50–10:10 PAC 100 (Epstein, Elszasz)
7. Thursdays 10:20–11:40 Exley 74 (Epstein, Brigham)
Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to computer programming in a modern high-level imperative programming language (Python). Topics covered will include program structure, types, functions, flow control, basic data structures, recursion, input/output, modules and exceptions. The lectures will cover the main features of imperative programming and discuss a variety of algorithms as well as program design issues. The lab sessions will give students the opportunity to apply these ideas to solve problems drawn from a variety of fields using the tools of programming.

Prerequisites

None.

Text

*Think Python (2nd ed.)* by Allen B. Downey


Moodle

Each lab section has a site on Wesleyan’s Moodle server ([http://moodle.wesleyan.edu/](http://moodle.wesleyan.edu/)) where students can access course documents and submit assignments electronically.

Homework

Homework will be assigned weekly. Each assignment will be released to Moodle on Tuesday shortly after the end of lecture. The assignment will be due at the beginning of the following week’s lecture (9:00 AM cutoff). In the event of a holiday or exam, instructions will be given. Submissions should be made according to the instructions of a student’s instructor of record. Electronic submissions may be made using Moodle. Late homework will not be accepted without a University-recognized justification.

Lab

Each week there will be a lab practicum in which students will work on a variety of programming activities. These activities are intended to help students develop practical programming and problem-solving skills. In each lab session students will use the new concepts introduced in the course that week, and integrate them with concepts learned previously to write programs of increasing sophistication and utility.

If you know that you will be unable to attend your assigned lab section in a given week, contact your instructor to see if you may be able to attend a different section on a one-off basis. Such accommodations will be considered only with prior notice.
Midterm Exam

There will be one midterm exam, in lieu of a lecture on October 18. You should plan to sit the exam as scheduled. If you cannot do so due to a prior University-recognized commitment, then you must make arrangements with the instructors to sit the exam before the scheduled exam date. A make-up exam for students who fail to sit the exam by the scheduled date will be considered only in the case of a University-recognized justification.

Programming Project

In lieu of a final exam, students will be assigned a final programming project. This will be of greater length and complexity than the homework and lab assignments and allow students to demonstrate their problem-solving abilities and understanding of the topics developed throughout the course. Several possible project topics will be offered, and students with a strong interest in a certain field of endeavor will be given an opportunity to propose their own programming project within that field. More information about the projects will be provided after the midterm exam.

Grading

Your course grade is determined from several components, weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework Problem Sets</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Sessions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All homework assignments will be weighted equally when calculating grades. Lab submissions demonstrating a good-faith effort to complete the assigned activities will receive full credit.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lecture and laboratory sessions. Whether or not students attend these sessions, they will be held responsible for the course material covered there.

Instructors reserve the right to drop students who, without notice, fail to attend lecture or lab in the first week of the course in order to make room for those on the course waiting list.

Drop-In Tutoring

A drop-in help clinic run by the course’s C.A.s will be available throughout the semester. Scheduling is subject to C.A. availability, but tentatively planned as follows:
Office Hours

Instructors’ office hours are as listed above in their contact data, as announced or posted throughout the semester, and by appointment.

Academic Integrity

Collaboration and learning from one another are encouraged. Copying and cheating are strictly forbidden. You should be able to distinguish the two. If you’re contemplating an action and you’re not sure into which category it falls, you should consider whether what you intend to submit is the product of your own efforts and represents your own understanding of the ideas involved. If it is/does not, then you should not submit it as your own work. Wesleyan imposes an Honor Code (to be found in the Student Handbook). You are expected to abide by it in all of your courses, including this one.

Academic Accommodations

The instructors are committed to supporting an accessible and inclusive learning environment where disability is recognized as an aspect of diversity. Students seeking academic accommodations for this course should follow University procedure by meeting with their class dean or someone from the office of disability resources and obtaining a letter of academic accommodations. This letter should be presented to the student’s instructor of record as early in the semester as possible so that we may make the necessary accommodations. This procedure is outlined at http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/Student/Academic%20Accommodations.html.