

CSC 241: INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE I

Fall 2020 :: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10:10 am – 11:40 am
Thursdays, 1:30 pm – 3:00pm (Lab)



Instructor Info

Instructor Name: Jay Tang
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Location: Online by appointment only*

**The appointments must be scheduled in advance using BlueStar which is available from Campus Connect. When you schedule an appointment, I will send you information about how to connect with me during our scheduled appointment.*



Course Description

This course is the first of a two-course sequence introducing computer science. The focus of the course is on problem solving, algorithm development, and structured and object-oriented programming using Python and the Python API (application programming interface), all in the context of building computer applications.

In the first course we will focus on structured programming and learn how and when to use conditionals, loops, and functional and modular abstractions.

Prerequisites: Ordinarily the prerequisite for this class is MAT 130: Precalculus or an equivalent high-school or college course covering algebra and precalculus. This may be waived for this section, but students without algebra and precalculus are responsible for working with the instructor, the course TA, and tutors in order to make up any material needed for the course assessments.



Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand that a main focus of computer science is developing applications for computer systems
- Have stronger problem-solving skills
- Know how to develop algorithmic solutions for basic computational problems
- Understand fundamental programming structures such as expressions, assignments, decision and iteration structures, functions and modules
- Have basic Python programming skills
- Be prepared for the second course in the sequence, CSC 242: Introduction to Computer Science II



Textbook, Software, & Supplies

- The required textbook is Introduction to Computing using Python: An Application Development Focus, Second Edition, Ljubomir Perković, John Wiley & Sons, 2015. ISBN 978-1-118-89105-6.
- The website used for this course is Desire2Learn (D2L). To log onto the D2L visit <https://d2l.depaul.edu/>. Class notes, programming assignments, lab assignments, and other course materials will be available through the D2L site. There will also be links to course recordings. While you are expected to attend all classes, the recordings can be useful for review.
- We also use CodeLab for this course, which can be found at <http://www.turingscraft.com/>. There is a page that provides information about logging into CodeLab and using the site for assignments that can be found on the D2L site. Please make sure that you review it.
- Python 3.8 will be used for this course.



About our Course Modality

This course is held entirely online. Attendance at the class is not mandatory and not graded. All course sessions will be recorded. However, it is still strongly recommended that you attend every class. Missing too many classes will impact your class participation score.

Your attendance at lab sessions are required and graded. Lab sessions will not be recorded.



COVID-19 Updates

For the latest news and resources regarding DePaul's response to COVID-19, please visit <https://go.depaul.edu/Fall2020>.



Grading Policy

Course assessments include class participation, lab attendance, programming assignments, and a midterm and final exam. The course grade will be computed as follows:

Assessment	Percentage
Class participation	5 %
Lab attendance and exercises	15 %
Programming assignments	30 %
Midterm exam	25 %
Final exam	25 %
TOTAL	100%

In order to do well in this class, you must attend the class sessions and labs regularly, participate in class discussions, read the chapters in the book as indicated in the homework assignment, start work on the assignments early, and ask questions early and often. The answers to the programming assignment and the lab and exam questions should be written in a way that is rigorous, clear, and concise.

Grading Scheme

Grade	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	65-69
D	60-64
F	<60



Lab and Assignment Info

- Each week you will have a lab session conducted by our teaching assistant Samira Mohammad Hosseini. Your attendance at the lab session and completion of lab exercises is required and will count for the portion of the grade indicated above. No late lab submissions are accepted for any reason. Your lowest lab score will be dropped in the calculation of your course grade.
- Each week you will have a programming assignment. You can consult with your homework partners, the lab assistant, the instructor, and the CDM tutors on the programming assignments, but you may not under any circumstances submit code that you have not helped to write, nor may you consult anyone beyond those specified when completing your assignments. Each programming assignment will have a posted deadline, specified on the assignment. No late assignments are accepted for any reason. Your lowest assignment score will be dropped in the calculation of your course grade.



Late Work, Make-Ups, and Extra Credit

- No late assignments are accepted for any reason.
- Make-up exams will not be given. If you wish to petition for a make-up exam, you must notify me in advance and provide documented evidence of the emergency that will cause you to miss the exam. Failure to contact me in advance of the exam date and time will disqualify you from being allowed to take a make-up exam. If a make-up exam is granted, it will be of a form of my choosing.
- There will not be an extra credit assignment. Anyone should be able to do well in this course if they do the work on time and ask for help proactively. If you are concerned about your grade or feeling overwhelmed, talk to me right away and I will do everything I can to help. Do not wait until it is too late to ask for help!



Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Lab
1	Thursday, September 10, 2020	Introduction to the course and Python	Lab 0
	Tuesday, September 15, 2020	Data types, operators and Input structures	
		<i>Last day to add classes</i>	
2	Thursday, September 17, 2020	Lists and functions	Lab 1
	Tuesday, September 22, 2020	Decision structures, Iteration structures	
		<i>The last day to drop classes with no penalty</i>	
3	Thursday, September 24, 2020	Functions and strings	Lab 2
	Tuesday, September 29, 2020	Modules and objects, formatted output	
4	Thursday, October 1, 2020	File processing	Lab 3
	Tuesday, October 6, 2020	Objects, exceptions and error handling	
5	Thursday, October 8, 2020	Exceptions and character encoding	Lab 4
	Tuesday, October 13, 2020	Loop patterns (Iteration and counter loops)	
6	Thursday, October 15, 2020	More loop patterns (Accumulator loop) Review for the midterm exam	Lab 5
	Tuesday, October 20, 2020	Midterm exam: 10:10 am - 11:40 am	
7	Thursday, October 22, 2020	Discussion of the midterm More loop patterns (nested loops)	Lab 6
	Tuesday, October 27, 2020	While loop	
		<i>Last day to withdraw from classes</i>	
8	Thursday, October 29, 2020	While loop, Dictionaries	Lab 7
	Tuesday, November 3, 2020	Dictionaries	

9	Thursday, November 5, 2020	More collection types (tuples and sets)	Lab 8
	Tuesday, November 10, 2020	The random module	
10	Thursday, November 12, 2020	More on functions	Lab 9
	Tuesday, November 17, 2020	Python objects Review for the final exam	
11	Thursday, November 19, 2020	Final exam: 8:30 am - 10:45 am	



Academic Integrity

DePaul University is a learning community that fosters the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas within a context that emphasizes a sense of responsibility for oneself, for others and for society at large. Violations of academic integrity, in any of their forms, are, therefore, detrimental to the values of DePaul, to the students' own development as responsible members of society, and to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Violations include but are not limited to the following categories: cheating; plagiarism; fabrication; falsification or sabotage of research data; destruction or misuse of the university's academic resources; alteration or falsification of academic records; and academic misconduct. Conduct that is punishable under the Academic Integrity Policy could result in additional disciplinary actions by other university officials and possible civil or criminal prosecution. Please refer to your Student Handbook or visit Academic Integrity at DePaul University (<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>) for further details.



DePaul and College-Specific Policies

PREFERRED NAME & GENDER PRONOUNS

I value each student's right to be referenced by their gender pronoun and their preferred name. If your name and pronoun in Campus Connect don't reflect what you'd like me to use, please let me know.

Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have

contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) by emailing csd@depaul.edu and/or visiting one of the locations below.

COVID-19 Virtual Office

During the temporary closure of our physical offices due to Covid-19, Center for Students with Disabilities is accessible for live questions, referrals, and assistance via a virtual office using Zoom. The virtual office will be staffed Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CST).

Virtual Office: www.tinyurl.com/CSDVirtualOffices

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in campusconnect.depaul.edu.

SEXUAL AND RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Academic relationships are based on communication, trust and respect, and as a DePaul community, we share a commitment to take care of one another. Sometimes, material raised in class may bring up issues for students related to sexual and relationship violence or other trauma. In other instances, students may reach out to faculty as a potential source of help and support. It is important for students to know that faculty are required to report information reported to them about experiences with sexual or relationship violence to DePaul's Title IX Coordinator. Students should also know that disclosing experiences with sexual or relationship violence in course assignments or discussion does not, in itself, constitute a formal report to the University and will not begin the process of DePaul providing a response.

Those seeking to report an incident of sexual or relationship violence to DePaul should:

- (a) use the attached link to do so [here](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?DePaulUniv&layout_id=4) (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?DePaulUniv&layout_id=4)
- (b) contact the Title IX Coordinator (312-362-8066 or titleixcoordinator@depaul.edu) or
- (c) contact Public Safety (Lincoln Park: 773-325-7777; Loop: 312-362-8400)

Students seeking to speak confidentially about issues related to sexual and relationship violence should contact a Survivor Support Advocate in the Office of Health Promotion & Wellness for information and resources (773-325-7129 or hpw@depaul.edu). More information is available at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/hpw/shvp.html>. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these

services and to seek help around sexual and relationship violence for themselves as well as their peers who may be in need of support.

ENROLLMENT/WITHDRAWAL AND OTHER ACADEMIC POLICIES

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on registration policies can be found at [DePaul Central](#).

WITHDRAWAL

Students who withdraw from the course do so by using the Campus Connection system (campusconnect.depaul.edu). Withdrawals processed via this system are effective the day on which they are made. Simply ceasing to attend, or notifying the instructor, or nonpayment of tuition, does not constitute an official withdrawal from class and will result in academic as well as financial penalty.

ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL

Administrative Withdrawal Appeals are submitted to and processed by the Dean of Students Office, and allow students to be retroactively withdrawn from classes for medical, mental health or personal crises even after the term has ended. More information is available on the [Division of Student Affairs](#) website.

EXCUSED ABSENCE

In order to petition for an excused absence, students who miss class due to illness or significant personal circumstances should complete the [Absence Notification form](#) through the [Dean of Students office](#). Students must submit supporting documentation alongside the form. The professor reserves the sole right whether to offer an excused absence and/or academic accommodations for an excused absence.

SYLLABUS CHANGES AND ERRORS

The instructor may make changes and updates to the course syllabus and schedule as needed. Students will be notified of any changes. If you find any broken links, outdated information, or other content that just seems "off" somehow, please let me know so I can fix it. I really do appreciate students helping me find and fix mistakes or confusing wording in my materials.