

CSC 401 - Spring 2021 - Syllabus

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Instructor

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Instructor

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Course homepage: <https://d2l.depaul.edu/d2l/home>

Class format

Sections (Sync/Async)

The format of the course will be identical whether you are registered for a sync(hronous) or asyc(chronous) section. Please read on ...

Recorded Lectures (Async)

This class will use a *flipped* format. The instructor will post regular video recordings (and related files) covering the class material to d2l > content. Students are responsible for watching these videos and reading the corresponding material in the textbook.

Please let me know if you have trouble downloading/watching videos. If needed I can produce lower quality videos that require less bandwidth.

Discusssion/Q&A via Zoom (Sync)

The scheduled class time will be used to discuss the course material and questions about coursework.

- **Thursday 5:45PM** start
- <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/92376852880>
- meet until questions are answered (may end early)
- attendance is not required
- will be recorded and posted to d2l > content > Weekn

Discussion/Message via Discord

We will use Discord to communicate in between class meetings. It is **very important** that you sign in, introduce yourself in the #intros channel and participate in the discussion:

- <https://discord.gg/B6AXb4KfTG>
- post questions/responses in the appropriate channel
- can also direct message (DM) the instructor and can attach .py files
- do *not* email me .py files, I can't receive them
- supports *markdown*, use single slant quotes for `inline code` or triple slant quotes (````) around multiline code. The slant quote is on the key with the tilde ~ (above Tab).
- For personal or grade issues, contact the instructor using *email*.

Office Hours

Office hours will be held

- **Thursday 4-5:30PM**
- <https://depaul.zoom.us/j/95547188115>
- drop in with questions or just to say hi!

Tutoring

Python tutoring is available through the CDM tutoring center - <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Curent%20Students/Pages/TutoringProgram.aspx>.

Course Summary

An introduction to programming with a focus on problem solving, structured programming, and algorithm design. Concepts covered include data types, expressions, variables, assignments, conditional and iterative structures, functions, file input/output, exceptions, arrays and an introduction to user-defined classes.

Prerequisites

None

Textbook

[*Introduction to Computing Using Python*, 2nd edition](#) (ebook) Ljubomir Perkovic, Wiley, 2015. ISBN (ebook): 978-1-118-89105-6. Please note that this is the **ebook version of the 2nd edition**. It contains some material that is not in the printed book.

Grading

Point scores and letter grades for the course will be computed according to the following tables:

Component	Weight
Assignments	36%
Midterm Exam	27%
Final Exam	27%
Attendance (see below)	10%

Note that your calculated grade on d2l is probably not accurate. Plus and minus scores will be assigned at the high and low ends of each of these ranges at the instructor's discretion. (No A+ or D-)

In addition to the requirements and expectations described elsewhere in this syllabus, you are required to attend three on-campus sessions:

- Saturday April 17, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 am
- Saturday May 8, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 am
- Saturday May 22, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 am

The exact location of these sessions will be listed in Campus Connect at the start of the Winter quarter. Attendance to these sessions counts for 10% of your final grade.

Letter Grade	Range
A	≥90%
B	≥80%
C	≥70%
D	≥60%
F	<60%

Please be aware that University/School policies (e.g. P/D/F grading) may modify or override this policy.

Required Coursework

Programming is *not* a spectator sport. It is extremely important that you engage the material, write code, make mistakes, and fix them. It is useful to watch the instructor and talk to your fellow students. But in the end, your success is dependent on the work you put in. Try things out, experiment, get stuck. And when you get stuck, get help from the instructor or the tutoring center.

Assignments

Assignments will be posted (roughly) weekly to the course website. Late assignments will receive a grade of 0. (**All** assignments count, no grades will be dropped in the final calculation of your grade).

You are allowed to collaborate on assignments in a small group of at most 3 people. If you collaborate, you **MUST**:

1. Type and submit your own file.
2. Include the name(s) of your collaborators in a comment at the top of your hw submission.
3. Be able to explain your code in class and/or to the instructor (see section on Code Review).

Do **NOT** lean too heavily on your classmates. In the end, you need to learn the material yourself and be able to write your own code.

Exams

Two exams, midterm and final, will be held during the quarter. These will be **time limited** and require you to do **individual work, no collaboration** allowed.

- Midterm - during class in 6th week (subject to change)
- Final - See final exam schedule - <https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/finals-calendar.aspx>

External sources

While the rules vary per assignment, In general you *are* allowed to search and reference online material. You are encouraged to reference the python docs. Make sure you follow these rules:

- you **must cite** any external sources that you use by placing comments in your code (include a url of the source you used)
- you **must not post or share** hw/exam questions online or elsewhere
- you **must not use any source** that results from postings of current or prior problems from this course
- For example: Student A posts problem statements from a hw/exam/project to **Chegg, CourseHero, StackOverflow** or other website. Student B finds the posting and uses/references some part of the posted "solution" in their submission. Then **both** Student A and Student B are violating the rules, and will receive a grade of 0 for the entire project.

All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

Code Review

Grades for all coursework are subject to **code review**: upon instructor request, you are **required** to meet with the instructor to **explain** your code/work. Full credit for the assignment will be subject to your successful explanation of the code, the steps you took to obtain it, and your contribution (for work that allows collaboration). Failure to comply, inadequate explanations and/or insufficient contributions will result in reduced credit, and possibly no credit, for the work.

Please note that I also:

- run similarity checks that compare your submissions to those of other current/former students (this actually compares the structure of the code, not just the names of variables etc.)
- check video logs to see which students are (not) watching the course videos

Course Goals and Topics

This course is an introduction to programming. After you have taken this class:

- you will have stronger problem solving skills;
- you will know how develop algorithmic solutions for basic computational problems
- you will understand fundamental programming structures such as expressions, assignments, decision and iteration structures, functions and modules;
- you will know how to design classes and understand the fundamental principles of object-oriented programming

Schedule

Please refer to the DePaul Academic Calendar for important deadlines and school policies <https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>. The following gives a tentative schedule for this course.

Week	Topic	Chapter(s)
1	Python interpreter; variables, expressions, and assignments; core data types (number types, string, and list); (using) objects and classes	2
2	Python programming; one and two-way conditional statements; iteration through sequence objects; functions and parameter passing	3
3	String processing; file I/O; exceptions	4
4	multi-way conditional structures; loop patterns	5
5	multi-dimensional lists; more loop patterns	5
6	Namespaces and scope.	7
7	An introduction to object-oriented programming	8
8	Object-oriented programming	8
9	Object-oriented programming – containers and inheritance	8
10	Object Oriented Programming, Review	8

School policies:

Mental Health and Academic Assistance

Balancing the hard work of achieving your educational goals with the other demands of life is difficult at the best of times. For many of us, for a variety of reasons, things are all the more difficult now. I want to make sure you feel comfortable, not embarrassed, reaching out to me for support. I will also point out where the University has great resources just a phone call or email away. These have been created and maintained for you, so use them. Sometimes people feel like their situation isn't the worst possible, so they assume they do not need help, but don't let that prevent you from reaching out.

- DePaul University Counseling Services – mental health is as important as physical health, and we have professionals just a phone call away: <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/ucs.aspx> (call (773) 325-7779 or 911 for emergency).
- The kind people at the Office of the Dean of Students can help you with a wide range of topics, including figuring out if you should withdraw or apply for an incomplete: <https://office.s.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/dos.aspx>.
- There are lots of additional, more specific resources listed here with the Office of Student Affairs, including crisis hotlines and sexual assault resources (note Title IX refers to a law protecting you from sex discrimination, including harassment and assault): <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/support-services/counseling/Pages/Crisis-Hotlines.aspx>.

Online Teaching Evaluation

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](#).

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at CampusConnect is correct.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.

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) at: Student Center, LPC, Suite #370 Phone number: (773)325.1677 Fax: (773)325.3720 TTY: (773)325.7296

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