

CSC 401 - Winter 2024 - Syllabus

Instructor

Brian O'Donnell – bodonne3@depaul.edu

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

Student Groups

In-Class Students

- Attend class meetings in person or participate via Zoom
- Can participate by watching pre-recorded videos
- Exams in person during class (6th and 11th weeks)
- Access to all posted materials

Online/ASYNC students

- Can attend live (sync) sessions through Zoom (optional, not required)
- Participate asynchronously by watching pre-recorded videos
- Exams taken in-class or proctored during several day window during 6th and 11th weeks
- Access to all posted materials

Class Format

Classroom/Zoom Meetings

- Monday 5:45-9pm
- LEWIS 01509
- Live (sync) participation - <https://depaul.zoom.us/my/bmodonnell>
- **Classroom recordings** - look for the heading **COL Recordings** on the right side of the course homepage, and click on the "5" next to the date you are interested in viewing.

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/ESvPnunbgn>
- Post questions/responses in the appropriate channel
- Can also direct message (DM) the instructor and can attach .py files (drag your .py into the message)
- 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

- **Tuesday 4:30-5:15pm, Thursday 4:30-5:15PM**
- On the Discord Server in the "Office Hours" voice channel

Communication

Outside of office hours the best way to contact me will be via email and through Discord. Please send email the bodonne3@depaul.edu and begin the subject with CSC 401. I will address emails as quickly as I am able but please allow 24 hours.

Tutoring

Python tutoring is available through the CDM tutoring center - <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%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	20%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	45%

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-)

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 weekly to the course website. There will be a total of 8 assignments with specific due date and time. Late assignments and submissions that do not execute will receive a grade of 0. **All** assignments count, no grades will be dropped in the final calculation of your grade.

Exams

Two exams, midterm and final, will be held during the quarter. These will be **conducted in a lab during normal class time. They will be time limited** and require you to do **individual work** with **no collaboration** and **no external sources** allowed.

- Midterm
 - 6th week
 - In-class students - taken during class time
 - Online/async - take with in-class students **or** during several day window in 6th week at
 - DePaul campus testing center
 - remote proctor if not in Chicago area, see below
- ♦ Final
 - 11th week
 - In-class students - taken in class
 - Online/async - take with in-class students **or** during several day window in 11th week at
 - DePaul campus testing center
 - remote proctor if not in Chicago area, see below

Remote proctoring: for students not able to take exams at a DePaul testing center:

- further information for online/async students on arranging a proctor can be found here - <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/onlinelearning/Pages/Exams.aspx>.
- You will be responsible for arranging the remote proctor and paying any fees charged by the testing center.

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. **If you choose to use generative AI tools you must understand the code that is generated. Exams will be taken without access to the internet and these tools will be unavailable. If you do not understand the code that is generated you will fail.**

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; first interactive program	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://offices.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](#).

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

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs it will be addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L, Discord and sent via email.
