Fall 2025 Syllabus

ITSS 3311: Introduction to Programming

Section 006

Instructor:	Dr. Radha Mookerjee, (SOM 3.209, 972-883-2415, email via eLearning ONLY)
Class hours:	Mondays 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm
Office Hours:	10:30 to 12:00 pm Tuesdays. You can also call me via Teams.
Email:	via eLearning only
TA:	Hongzhi Liu
TA Office Hours:	Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00
TA Email :	hongzhi.liu@utdallas.edu

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected of all students. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to university requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. No points are awarded for attendance. However, students are expected to attend all classes, watch all video recordings and read the assigned material.

Class Materials

I will provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course. However, these materials are for registered students use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student Accessibility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Course Description

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of programming. Students will also be introduced to the object-oriented paradigm. Topics include data types, control structures, objects, classes, iterations, functions, and arrays as they relate to developing business applications. In this course students will learn the mechanics of writing, executing, testing, and debugging programs.

Course Pre-requisites

There are no prerequisites required in terms of prior coursework.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The objective of the course is to introduce students to the basic principles of object-oriented systems using Python as the medium. Topics the students will learn by the end of the semester are:

1. Have a strong understanding of basic programming concepts like variables, control structures and functions
2. Will learn the main data structures in Python: lists, tuples, dictionaries and sets
3. Will understand the main tenets and basic mechanics of object-oriented programming and be able to apply these concepts using Python
4. Will be able to perform all aspects of developing and executing programs in Python including debugging and testing them.

Recommended Texts

There are many Python books available for free online. You can use any book that appeals to you. I have listed a few below. The last one is not free.

- Fundamentals of Python Programming (**FPP**) - by Richard L. Halterman
  - Fundamentals of Python Programming
- Think Python - by Allen B. Downey
  - Think Python
- A byte of Python - by Swaroop C. H
  - A Byte of Python
- Python for Everybody (**PFE**) - by Charles R. Severance
  - Python For Everybody

Required Software / Hardware

- A computer with reasonable processing power.
- Install Python via Anaconda (https://www.anaconda.com/download/).
- You will also need a text editor like Notepad++
- You can also use Google Colaboratory (a cloud-based platform for executing Python code) if you prefer. Google Colab is available on https://colab.research.google.com/. **You will need a Google account for this.**

Course Evaluation

Class Assignments:

There will be four homework assignments that will count towards 25% of the final grade. The assignments will be weighted as follows:

Assignment Number	Weight
Homework I	4%
Homework II	5%
Homework III	7%
Homework IV	9%

Submission instructions

For each assignment you will submit one single Jupyter Notebook containing the responses to all homework questions.

Note:

- All five assignments are individual assignments.
- You must submit original, independent intellectual work for all academic exercises.
- Late submissions within 48 hours of the due date and time will be subject to a 20% penalty. Submissions past 48 hours after the original deadline will not be accepted.

Project: There will be one project that will be worth 15% of the course grade

Exams

- There will be two exams for the course worth 30% each of the course grade. I will exercise my discretion to change the weight for the first exam to 25% and the second one to 35%.
- You will take both exams at the UTD Testing Center. You **MUST** register for the exam at the Testing Center **at least two weeks prior to each exam.** It is your responsibility to find out the Testing Center hours and reserve your slot accordingly. **If you fail to do so and are unable to find a spot for the exam, I will not offer any make-up exam.**
- You can register for both exams using the following link: https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center/students/
- **Make-up exams will be allowed ONLY with prior permission from the instructor.**

Grading Scale

Scaled Score	Letter Equivalent
94 – 100	A
86 - 93	A-
81 - 85	B+
76 - 80	B
71 - 75	B-
66 - 70	C+
60 – 65	C
Less than 60	F

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on student performance **relative** to other students. Adherence to instructions will be considered an important part of the grade.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week of / Date	Topic
08/25/2025	Introduction
	Variables and Expressions
09/01/2025	Labor Day Week – No Classes
09/08/2025	Conditional Execution
	Iteration
09/14/2025	Homework One Due
09/15/2025	Functions
	Strings
09/22/2025	Strings continued
	Lists
9/28/2025	Homework Two Due
09/29/2025	Tuples
	Sets
10/06/2025	Dictionaries
	Exam I Review
10/13/2025	Exam 1 in the Testing Center
10/19/2025	Homework Three Due
10/20/2025	OOPS
10/27/2025	OOPS
11/03/2025	Files
	Exceptions
11/10/2025	Some Useful Functions
	AI and Python
11/24/2025	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes
11/30/2025	Homework Four Due
12/01/2025	AI and Python
	Exam II Review
12/07/2025	Project Due
12/05/2025	Exam 2 in the Testing Center

Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the eLearning website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the Getting Started with eLearning webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student Accessibility, and many others. Please see the eLearning Current Students webpage for more information.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the online eLearning Help Desk. The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Comet Creed

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: "*As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.