ITSS 3311 Introduction to Programming

Fall 2025

Course Section	ITSS 3311.004.25F
Course Title	Introduction to Programming
Meetings	Friday, 10:00am - 12:45pm, JSOM 2.115
Instructional Mode	In Person, Face-to-Face
Instructor	Nan Wang (nan.wang@utdallas.edu)
Office Hours	Every Friday, 1:00 - 2:00 PM CST, via MS Teams
Teaching Assistant	Rinisha Snehal Dungdung (rinisha.dungdung@utdallas.edu)
Office Hours	Every Thursday, 2:00 - 4:00PM CST, via MS Teams
Important Notes	Announcements, assignments, class materials, and grades will be posted in eLearning. Students must use UTD email accounts when contacting the instructor or TA. Students are expressly prohibited from recording this course. Virtual and asynchronous course options are NOT available.

General Course Information

Course Description

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of programming using Python. Students will learn core concepts such as variables, data types, control structures, loops, functions and classes. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving and hands-on coding, enabling students to design, implement, and debug Python programs.

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of programming using Python. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand of core programming fundamentals, including variables, data types, control structures, loops, functions, and basic object-oriented principles.
2. Apply Python syntax to write, execute, test, and debug programs of elementary complexity.
3. Analyze simple practical problems and design Python programs to solve them effectively.
4. Identify, diagnose, and fix errors in Python code to ensure correct program behavior.
5. Establish a strong foundation for continued study in programming.

Course Prerequisites

No prerequisites are required for this course. This course is intended for students with minimal or no prior experience in programming.

Required Textbooks & Materials

No textbooks are required for this course. All course materials, assignments, announcements, and grades will be posted on eLearning. Students are responsible for regularly checking eLearning and staying informed of any updates or changes.

Required Hardware & Software

- Laptop REQUIRED (Windows or Mac OS)
- Install Python software via Python.org: https://www.python.org/downloads/
- Optional programming text editors:
  Sublime Text: https://www.sublimetext.com/download
  Visual Studio Code: https://code.visualstudio.com

Suggested Course Materials

- Python for Everybody - https://www.py4e.com/book
- A Byte of Python - https://python.swaroopch.com
- Online tutorial - https://www.pythontutorial.net
- Online tutorial - https://www.w3schools.com/python/

COURSE POLICES

Class Attendance & Participation

This course will be conducted in person on campus. Virtual or asynchronous attendance options are **not available**. Attendance is Important and **Expected**. Regular participation is required, and students who fail to engage consistently place themselves at risk of scholastic difficulty. Participation will constitute a portion of the course grade. Attendance and participation will be recorded periodically and evaluated based on both presence and the quality of contributions during class. Missed in-class activities, practices, or quizzes cannot be made up.

Classroom Citizenship

- Students are expected to arrive on time and always conduct themselves respectfully.
- Mobile phones must remain silenced and out of sight during class. Texting, photography, or video recording is strictly prohibited without prior instructor approval. Violations will result in disciplinary action, including confiscation of the device until the end of class.
- Laptops and tablets may only be used for course-related activities. Any misuse will result in the student being directed to power down the device. Repeated violations may result in removal from the classroom.

eLearning and Course Platforms

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. For guidance on using eLearning features, 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.

All announcements, course materials, assignments, and grades will be posted on the course's eLearning site. Students are responsible for regularly checking the course eLearning site to stay informed of updates and requirements.

Class Recordings

Unless the Office of Student Access Ability has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student Access Ability accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Communications Policy

The university requires all official students to use their official UTD email accounts for all communication with faculty and staff. Emails from personal email address is strongly discouraged due to security and spam concerns. This course uses online tools for interaction and communication. In addition to eLearning, external tools such as email and web conferencing may be utilized during the semester.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students requiring accommodations must present an official accommodation letter from the disability services office within the first two weeks of class. Accommodations are not applied retroactively under any circumstances. Students serving as official note-takers must also provide appropriate documentation within the first two weeks of class if any accommodation is to be requested.

Technical Requirements

Beginning in Spring 2020, undergraduate and graduate students will be required to have their own laptop for their classes. Students are required to have a web-enabled computing device for every class, since class activities and tests will utilize e-Learning. While JSOM Technology and Facilities services does not support student laptops, the UTD OIT Help Desk might be able to help. If taking a proctored exam remotely, a webcam will be required.

Academic Integrity

The University values academic honesty as essential for excellence. Students must follow instructor guidelines for individual and group work, avoid plagiarism, cheating, or submitting the same work for multiple courses without permission. Violations may result in failing grades and disciplinary action. Detailed policies are available on the University's General Policies website.

Academic Supports

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please see http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources

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

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.

Grade Policies

The course grade will be assigned based on the following components:

Component	Weight
Exam I	30%
Exam II	30%
Assignment	35%
Attendance & Participation	5%
Total	100%

The grade scale below serves as a general guideline for evaluating student performance in this course. Final letter grades may be adjusted on a curve, based on overall class performance. All grades will be posted on the course eLearning site as they become available.

Final Score Range	Letter Grade
91 <= Final Score < 100	A
86 <= Final Score < 91	A-
81 <= Final Score < 86	B+
76 <= Final Score < 81	B
71 <= Final Score < 76	B-
66 <= Final Score < 71	C+
60 <= Final Score < 66	C
Final Score < 60	D or below

Assignment Guidelines

1. **Submission Policy**
   All assignments must be submitted via **eLearning** by the posted due date and time. Assignments submitted by email will NOT be accepted or graded. There are no make-up assignments and no exceptions for last-minute technical issues that prevent submission through eLearning. Students may submit (and resubmit) interim versions of their work in eLearning prior to the deadline to ensure successful submission. Only the most recent submission received before the deadline will be graded.

2. **Late Work Policy**
   Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Exceptions may only be granted for circumstances beyond the student's control (e.g., death in the immediate family, emergency medical procedures).
   - Assignments submitted up to 24 hours late will incur a 20% penalty.
   - Assignments submitted more than 24 hours late will receive zero credit**.**

3. **Assignment Posting**
   Assignments will be posted on eLearning with detailed descriptions. Assignments will generally be posted at least three (3) days before the due date, depending on the pace of the class. Any changes to assignments or schedules will also be posted on eLearning. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed and regularly check eLearning for these updates.

4. **Grade Access**
   Students can view their grades on eLearning by selecting "My Grades" from the course menu once the grade for each assessment have been released.

5. **Submission Format**
   All homework must be submitted online through eLearning in a **single file** containing answers to all questions.
   - Accepted file formats: PDF (preferred) or Word document (.docx).
   - File names must follow the format: *LastName_FirstName_HW#* (e.g., Smith_Jane_HW2.pdf).
   - Only the most recent submission received prior to the deadline will be graded.

6. **Assignment Grading**
   This course includes a total of eight (8) homework assignments. Each assignment is worth 5% of the final grade. The lowest homework score will be dropped, and the remaining seven (7) assignments will count toward the final grade ($7 \times 5\% = 35\%$).

7. **Academic Integrity**
   Homework must be completed individually. Collaboration beyond general discussion is not permitted. Copying from peers, online sources, or AI tools is strictly prohibited and will be treated as academic misconduct.

Examination Guidelines

1. **Exam Time & Location**
   This course includes two (2) timed examinations, each administered in class during the regularly scheduled class period. Each examination will have a duration of two (2) hours. Students who fail to attend a scheduled examination will receive a grade of zero for that assessment.

2. **Exam Format**
   Exams are closed-book and closed-notes. Unless otherwise specified, the use of notes, textbooks, cellular phones, or any other resources is strictly prohibited. All exams must be completed individually, without assistance from any outside sources or persons.

3. **Proctoring**
   Exams are proctored and must be completed within the allotted time. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. Students are expected to plan accordingly, as requests for additional time will not be granted.

4. **Make-up Exam Policy**
   No remote, alternative or make-up exams will be offered except in the case of a documented medical emergency or other university-approved exceptions. To qualify, students must provide a valid medical certificate from a licensed physician and notify the instructor before the scheduled exam. Failure to contact the instructor in advance will result in a zero, and no credit will be awarded.
   All remote, alternative, and make-up exams will be proctored. Students are required to strictly follow all proctoring instructions. Proctored remote exams will require a functioning webcam for broadcasting, and failure to comply will result in a zero score.

5. **Exam Coverage**
   Exam 1 is cumulative, covering material introduced before the exam.
   Exam 2 is comprehensive, with a greater emphasis on material covered after Exam 1. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of foundational topics from earlier lectures, as these concepts are essential for understanding and applying subsequent course material.

6. **Grade Review**
   If you have any concerns about the grading of an exam, please contact the instructor and TA within three (3) days of the grade being posted. The entire exam answers will be re-evaluated, which may result in either an increase or a decrease in the final score.

7. **Academic Integrity**
   Any student found engaging in academic dishonesty during an examination will receive a score of zero for that exam. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized materials, copying from another student, or receiving assistance from any other individual. Students are expected to complete all exams independently and in accordance with the university's code of conduct. Students must adhere to the university's academic honesty policy. Any form of cheating, plagiarism, or use of unauthorized materials will result in disciplinary action.

CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Fall 2025, Friday 10:00AM - 12:45PM

Week	Date	Topic	Material	Assignment	Due Date
1	8/29	General Introduction	Lecture 0	*No Homework*	
2	9/5	Syntax, Variables, Data Types	Lecture 1	Homework 1	Due 9/11
3	9/12	Strings, User Input	Lecture 2	Homework 2	Due 9/18
4	9/19	Conditional Statements	Lecture 3	Homework 3	Due 9/25
5	9/26	Lists, Sets, Tuples	Lecture 4	Homework 4	Due 10/2
6	10/3	Review Session I	Exercises		
7	10/10	Exam I			
8	10/17	Loops	Lecture 5	Homework 5	Due 10/23
9	10/24	Dictionaries, Libraries	Lecture 6	Homework 6	Due 10/30
10	10/31	Functions	Lecture 7	Homework 7	Due 11/6
11	11/7	Files & Exceptions	Lecture 8	Homework 8	Due 11/13
12	11/14	Objected-Oriented Programming	Lecture 9	*No Homework*	
13	11/21	Review Session II	Exercises		
14	11/28	No Class – Thanksgiving Holidays			
15	12/5	Exam II			

Notes:
1.This schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced in class or via eLearning, and it is the student's responsibility to stay informed.
2. All assignments are due by 11:59 PM central time (CT).