

CS 1101 Computer Science I

Section 04

Spring 2016

Instructor Muller

Syllabus

Welcome to CS1101 section 04. This course is an introduction to the art and science of computer programming and to some of the fundamental concepts of computer science. Students will write programs in the Python programming language. Python is still a widely used programming language featuring a flexible style of coding. We will use it as a *value-oriented* language — computation is driven by an imperative to find the *value* of an expression.

Good program design methodology will be stressed throughout the course. There will also be a study of some of the basic notions of computer science, including computer systems organization, files, and some algorithms of fundamental importance.

Course Goals

The main goal of this course is to help the student develop an understanding of *computation* and to help them master the art of designing algorithms, and developing the programs that implement them. Important parts of the latter include documenting and testing the program.

Students will learn how to decompose problems into specific subproblems, write an algorithm to solve a specific problem, and then translate that algorithm into a Python program.

Basic Information

CS 1101 has two 75-minute lectures each week and one one-hour lab. Lectures for section 04 are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9AM in Fulton Hall 415.

Attendance at the lectures is critical, as all new material will be presented there. **Note:** Laptops are not allowed in lecture. If you have special circumstances that require you to bring one, please see me.

Course Web Site

Please bookmark the course homepage:

<http://www.cs.bc.edu/~muller/teaching/cs1101.py/s16/>

We will use this site very heavily throughout the semester and most of the course materials will be distributed through this site. Some lab materials will be distributed through the linked Piazza site. Problem sets are to be submitted through the linked Canvas website. Note that we will not have a course homepage on Canvas.

Staff

Instructor: Robert Muller

email: robert.muller2@gmail.com
office: St. Mary's Hall Rm S277,
hours: Mondays 1PM - 3PM, Thursdays 3PM - 5PM
phone: 617-552-3964

Teaching Assistant: Laura Baumgartner

email: baumgala AT bc DOT edu
office: Fulton 160
hours: Sundays 7PM - 9PM

Teaching Assistant: Jesse Mu

email: lastname j bc DOT edu
office: Fulton 160
hours: Tuesdays 1PM - 3PM

Lab Times

All lab/section meetings are in Higgins 280. The labs are run by the course Teaching Assistants. They provide a great opportunity for you to work with a partner and practice with new material on some fun problems in a supervised setting. Regular attendance at labs is strongly encouraged. **Please bring your laptop if you have one.** If you do not have a laptop, please see me.

Lab times are:

1. CSCI100602 (Jesse Mu) Tuesdays 5PM - 6PM,
2. CSCI100604 (Laura Baumgartner) Wednesdays 10AM - 11AM.

Problem Sets

Each week you will be assigned a problem set. Unless otherwise specified, all problem sets are due on 5PM on the specified due date. The single best indicator of success for computer science is *starting problem sets early*.

Problem sets should be submitted for grading by uploading an appropriately named zip file through the course Canvas web site. (As linked from the course home page.) Problem sets cannot be submitted as email attachments. Attempts to submit problem sets as email attachments will not receive an email reply indicating that the attempted submission failed.

Topics

Roughly construed and subject to variation.

1. Overview, administration, Python setup and introduction. Types, literals, operators and expressions. Simplification, and values. Functions, libraries, function calls, function definitions.
2. More on function definitions and calls, variables and the simplification/substitution model of computation. let-bound variables, binding patterns, type notation. Using the graphics system. Branching, repetition.
3. More on repetition, primality, tessellation, A bisection algorithm for square roots.
4. Lists and tuples, appending, reversal, work/complexity. More on lists, linear search, association lists. Insert, split, partition and merge.
5. Sorting: insertion sort, mergesort, quicksort.
6. More work with lists and tuples, making change, positional addition. First Exam.
7. Functions are values, mapping and folding/reducing.
8. Binary search, binary search trees.
9. Numeral systems, binary, logic gates, a full-adder, a ripple-carry adder.
10. Machines: storage/memory, bytes and hexadecimal numerals. A storage model of evaluation. Storage diagrams. Machine architecture, SVM, assembly code.
11. Mutation, arrays and imperative repetition idioms while and for. Working with 1 and 2D arrays.
12. Backtracking, 8-queens. Second Exam.
13. Strings, text, file IO and command-line arguments. Applications in bioinformatics, Markov models.
14. Defining new types in Python and Java.
15. Defining new types in Python and Java. Review and wrapup.

Exams

There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. The exams are in class and are closed notes and closed book. You will have 75 minutes to complete each midterm, and 2.5 hours to complete the final. If you require extra time for documented reasons, please let us know.

Midterms

First Midterm Thursday February 25,

Second Midterm Thursday April 14,

Final Exam TBA.

Reading

There are no assigned readings but the course will roughly follow Harvey Mudd's **CS for All** which can be found through the course website. There are two other books listed on the course homepage. We will use extensive code and lecture notes which will be posted to the course web site.

Grading

Your grade for this class will be a combination of your homework, exam, and participation work. Participation is largely based on effort (not correctness). Lab work and Piazza involvement will be incorporated into the participation score. Final grades are computed, roughly as follows:

- Ten problem sets, these account for 48% of your grade,
- Two midterm exams, each accounts for 13% of your grade and a final exam which accounts for 14% of your grade,
- Class, lab and piazza forum participation, together, these account for the remaining 12% of your grade.

Important! If you fail either the problem set or exam components, you will fail CS 1101, even if your weighted-average scores are mathematically above the passing threshold.

Late Homework Policy

Homework is due on the day indicated at midnight. *This is a strict deadline.* Homework submitted at 12:01AM is one day late as is homework submitted 23:59 late. Late homework is penalized 25% per 24-hour period.

In the case of medical exigencies, students may petition the the Instructor for an extension. Medical problems or family emergencies are the only conditions under which extensions will be granted.

Honor Code

All solutions and code should be produced by you alone, or by you and a partner, where appropriate. For pair-programmed assignments, each partner needs to submit the assignment and each needs to acknowledge the other partner when submitting.

You may discuss algorithms at a high level with any student in the class. You may also help any student find a small bug in their code. However, you may not copy solutions from anyone, nor should you collaborate beyond high-level discussions with anyone who is not your partner. For pair programming problems, you must follow the guidelines given above.

If you have any questions about what behavior is acceptable, it is your responsibility to come see one of the instructors before you engage in this behavior. We are more than happy to answer any questions you may have.