Course Syllabus

Jump to Today

Instructor

That's me! I am Eric Reed, and you can email me at **reederic@foothill.edu (mailto:reederic@foothill.edu)** . It's easiest for me if you ask questions through the private or public message center here in the course, and only use email if you have trouble logging in. I get a huge amount of email and there's a chance that a time critical question will get lost if you email me.

I teach both math and computer science. I hold an M.S. in math from CSU East Bay and an M.S. in computer science from Georgia Tech. Feel free to ask me about either one!

What you really need to know is that I am glad you are here, and my goal is your success in this course.

Office Hours

I will be holding office hours on campus from Noon to 1PM on Wednesdays (starting 4/13), and online from 1pm - 2pm Sunday through Tuesday. Please see the Office Hours tab on the left for more information. Please join even if you don't have questions!

Oh, what about this course?

CS 3A is an introduction to object oriented using the Python language. It is not designed to be a first programming course. Absolute beginners may wish to start with CS 49, Foundations of Computer Programming. Please check with a counselor.

Students already familiar with Python or other programming languages will learn how to write object oriented Python programs that cover a wide range of applications. Regardless of your previous experience, for success you will need both a desire to learn and a positive attitude.

Python is in high demand right now because of its use in data analysis - and that is a seriously hot topic. You can code up some models pretty easily, and then use some of the extensions to make your code run super fast. But Python isn't just about data analysis - about half of all Python developers use it for web backends, including sites like YouTube and Netfilx.

And where's the book?

There is no required textbook for the course. The **"official" Python tutorial (https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/)** should get you through, and it's completely free. Another great online resource is "**How to Think Like a Computer Scientist.**

(https://runestone.academy/runestone/books/published/thinkcspy/index.html) " This is a textbook format with interactive examples built in. If you prefer a textbook, you could pick up "Starting Out with Python" by Gaddis, any edition.

So I need to buy some expensive software, right?

Nope, everything you need is free.

Where to Get Help

This is an online CS class. That means I sit at home alone with a Red Bull and get everything done without talking to anyone, right?

Nope. There are a few places where you can meet and chat with your fellow students. And I think you should!

Public Forums

Questions and comments should be posted to the Discussions Tool which you can reach by clicking on Discussions on the left menu. I will usually reply within a day. Unless a question is of a private nature (i.e. grades, registration issues), please use the public Discussions. Also, feel free to answer your fellow students' questions even if you only have a guess as to what the answer is. It's great to engage in conversation with each other in this manner.

You must post an introduction by Sunday of the first week of class or you will be ***dropped as a "no show"*** according to the college requirements. Use the "First Week Introductions" discussion in this Module. In following weeks you can file bug reports, share interesting sites or articles you found, or ask and answer questions about the labs.
One thing though - Do Not Post Homework Code

Whether you have a question or suggested answer, ***never post homework code*** to forums. Create a separate small program to display your issue or illustration.

Private Messages

Please use *public discussions* for any question or comment that involves understanding the modules, tests or assignments. If you have a confidential question (like grades or registration) use the Message Tool by first clicking on Inbox at the far left, then selecting this course and your intended recipient (usually me).

Posting Program Code

You can post code to the public discussions that is not directly from your assignment. If you have an assignment question, translate that into a piece of code that does not reveal your answer or submission,

exactly.

STEM Success Center

STEM Center tutoring is available online! Just navigate to **foothill.edu/tutoring (http://foothill.edu/tutoring)** to see all the tutoring options. All of the online tutors are Foothill instructors. These experts are qualified to help you with assignments or modules without giving you an answer that will short-circuit your discovery process. Let them know that you are not to receive actual assignment solution code or even fragments. They probably know this already, but it's your responsibility to avoid submitting something that was written by a tutor or another person.

Grades

Your grades are based on ten programming **lab assignments** (150 points), one **quiz** (7 points), a **final activity** (15 points), and **participation** (15 points). You have a two day automatic grace period beyond the due date to turn in assignments...this is in case you get sick, your car breaks down, your laptop fails, a tutor isn't available, etc. In general you should turn your work in by the original due date. Solutions are automatically released immediately after the grace period, so I cannot accept any work later than that.

To earn full participation points, you must provide meaningful contribution to the discussions at least once during each of the following periods (Monday through Sunday, Week 1-4, Week 5-8, Week 9-12). This may be asking a "good" question, providing a helpful, non-duplicating answer to another student, posting a bug report, or just bringing in some relevant information from outside the class. For your first grade it is sufficient to post a nice introduction (what's your name, why are you here, what coding experience do you have, etc).

Lab Assignments:

Each lab assignment has its own rubric. Every assignment, though, has the following basic requirements:

- You must include a docstring for your methods and functions.
- You must follow the PEP-8 style guidelines
- Your code should be simple and elegant
- You must include a sample run that is exactly what is output by the program you submit

Following is a grading scale for your final grade:

Absolute Grading Scale

% needed for	this grade
99	A+
94	A
90	A-

87	B+
84	B
77	B-
74	C+
67	C
60	D
< 60	F

No Ghosting!

For a complete reference of all withdrawal dates and deadlines refer to the **Foothill College registration page (https://foothill.edu/calendar/spring2021.html)** at the college web site.

To remain in the class beyond the second week you must:

- Submit the first lab assignment by April 13th (including the two day grace period)
- Make your introduction post by April 10th

If you do not do both, that is an indication that this is not the right quarter for you to take this class. I will likely drop you from the course. If you ***intend*** to drop the course you must do so yourself.

To remain in the class after that you must:

- Log in to the course at least once every seven days
- Keep up with the gradable activities

If you miss two gradable activities in a row, I may drop you from the course. If you ***intend*** to drop the course you must do so yourself.

Sharing is caring? Not always...

I strongly encourage you to help each other - on the discussion board, in the STEM Center, through Zoom, wherever you happen to be. You can do flow charts together and strategize how you might logically complete the assignment. However - all the CODE you submit MUST be 100% your own. Therefore, never share any code from your assignments with anyone else. MANY MANY MANY times I have heard a student upset because someone else used their code in a computer science class and both students got a zero. Any variation of collaborating or copying programming lab assignments is prohibited. The assignment must be 100% your own work.
Please familiarize yourself with Foothill's **Academic Integrity Policy. (http://www.foothill.edu/services/documents/Z-Card.pdf)**

For those of you wishing to give help, please do not give away the answer. Either tell the person where they can look to find the solution, give them a general idea or ask them to ask me. Don't post actual assignment code.

You must completely avoid sites like Chegg or CourseHero. If you post assignments there or use code from those sites, you will almost certainly receive a zero for the assignment, and a referral to the dean.

StackExchange is a legitimate place to ask small questions about how a particular function works (or why it's not working the way you think it should). Be very careful, though, not to post assignments or copy code even from StackExchange.

All of the material on this site is written by me, and I reserve all rights. You do not have permission to post my assignments or code.

If you have (or think you may have) a learning challenge:

... please contact ***Disability Resource Center*** **(DRC)** **(https://foothill.edu/drc/)** at the start of the quarter. To contact **DRC**, you can follow the link or send an email to drc@foothill.edu

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Apr 6, 2022	**Course Policies and Academic Integrity** (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621562)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 10, 2022	**First Week Introductions** (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621563)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 11, 2022	**Assignment One - Input and Output** (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621568)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 18, 2022	**Assignment Two - Type Conversions and Exception Handling** (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621573)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 25, 2022	**Assignment Three - While Loops** (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621572)	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 2, 2022	**Assignment Four - DataSet Class** (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621566)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon May 9, 2022	Assignment Five - Implementing and Testing @properties (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621565)	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 16, 2022	Assignment Six - Custom Exceptions and Cross Table Statistics (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621570)	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 23, 2022	Assignment Seven - Enums, Sets and f-strings (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621569)	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 30, 2022	Assignment Eight - Display Cross Table (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621564)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jun 4, 2022	Participation Week 5-8 (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621575)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 6, 2022	Assignment Nine - Filters, Step One (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621567)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 13, 2022	Assignment Ten - Filters, Step Two (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621571)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 22, 2022	Final Assignment - File I/O (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621574)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 24, 2022	Participation Week 9-12 (https://foothillcollege.instructure.com/courses/20577/assignments/621576)	due by 11:59pm