INLS 560-002 - Programming for Information Professionals

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Textbook: *Starting out with Python*, 3rd Edition, Tony Gaddis. Available at the UNC bookstore or via Amazon. There are both paperback and ebook versions.

Official Course Description:
Introduction to programming and computational concepts. Students will learn to write programs using constructs such as iteration, flow control, variables, functions, and error handling. No programming experience required. **THIS IS NOT A COURSE FOR STUDENTS WITH PREVIOUS PROGRAMMING EXPERIENCE!**

Course Design and Approach:
Computer programming is about problem solving. It is about breaking down a problem into smaller pieces, developing solutions for those sub-problems, and connecting them together to address the overall challenge.

This class will provide an introduction to programming with a focus on the Python programming language. The course will teach you how to use Python, its syntax, and its features. However, the course will present material that is much more fundamental. You will learn a bit about how computers work. You will learn about data representations and structures. You will learn about flow control concepts including conditionals and iteration. You will learn design techniques, best practices, and debugging methods.

This class will require a significant investment of time - the practice of programming is the actual application of the concepts we will learn in class and this class will lean towards that applied work in both assignments and grading.

Grading:
Your grade for this course will be determined by a combination of three distinct elements: programming assignments, exams, and class participation. The approximate contributions of these three elements to your grade are as follows:

60% - Assignments
25% - Exams
15% - Class Participation

Please note that class participation grades will be based on general participation during class discussions/activities, participation in the online discussion forum, and class attendance.

Grades will follow the standard UNC grading system as outlined by the Office of the University

Registrar. The grading scale will be curved, with the highest grades reserved (as outlined by the Registrar) for those with "the highest level of attainment that can be expected."

Honor Code Policy:
Chapel Hill has had a student-administered honor system and judicial system for over 100 years. Because academic honesty and the development and nurturing of trust and trustworthiness are important to all of us as individuals, and are encouraged and promoted by the honor system, this is a most significant University tradition. More information is available at https://studentconduct.unc.edu/honor-system.

The UNC Honor Code is in effect for all work in this course. Section II. B. of the "Instrument of Student Judicial Governance" gives examples of actions that constitute academic dishonesty: https://studentconduct.unc.edu/sites/studentconduct.unc.edu/files/documents/Instrument.pdf.

Assignment Due Dates and Late Work:
Assignments are due by the start of class on the day they are due unless otherwise specified. For assignments that are due on days when class is not scheduled, they must be submitted by the normal class starting time (even though class is not meeting) unless otherwise specified.

Assignments are to be submitted using Sakai unless instructed otherwise. Submission instructions will be included with each assignment description.

Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day late, up to a maximum of three days. A "day" here refers to a 24 hour period, or fraction thereof, after the due date. For example, a late assignment turned in 25 hours late will be penalized as two days late. No assignments will be accepted if more than 72 hours (3 days) late.

Start early and ask questions. Many assignments may turn out to be more time consuming than expected. It is strongly suggested that you start working on assignments as soon as they are assigned. In this way, you'll have time to ask questions and complete your assignment before the due date.

Requests for Extensions: If you have a real problem submitting an assignment on time, please contact me before the due date. Getting a late start on an assignment does not count as a real problem. Any request for an extension must be made, preferably by email, at least 24 hours prior to the due date. If an emergency arises that prevents you from contacting me in advance, you must do so as soon as possible.