



School of Engineering  
*Information  
Technology Program*

## **ITP 115**

### **Programming in Python**

**Units:** 2  
**Semester:** Fall 2021  
**Section:** Various  
**Days:** Various  
**Times:** Various  
**Location:** Various

**Instructors:** Greg Pohlner [pohlner@usc.edu](mailto:pohlner@usc.edu)

**Office:** Listed on Blackboard

**Office Hours:** Listed on Blackboard

**Contact Info:** Listed on Blackboard

**Course Teaching Assistants:** Listed on Blackboard

**Office Hours:** Listed on Blackboard

**Contact Info:** Listed on Blackboard

**IT Help:** Provided by Viterbi IT

**Hours of Service:** 8am–5pm M–F

**Walk-in:** DRB 205

**Contact Info:** (213) 740–0517

**Email:** [engrhelp@usc.edu](mailto:engrhelp@usc.edu)

## Course Description

This course is intended to teach the basics of programming in Python. Python's high level data structures and clear syntax make it an ideal first language, while the large number of existing libraries make it suitable to tackle almost any programming tasks. Python offers an interactive environment in which to explore procedural, functional and object oriented approaches to problem solving.

## Learning Objectives

- Learn the syntax of the Python programming language.
- Implement a simple program by writing the code, testing the code, and debugging the program.
- Incorporating the use of sequential, selection, and repetition control structures into a program.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the design and implementation of functions and the passing of parameters to simplify the solution of large problems and to promote the concept of code reuse.
- Implement programs using sequential input and output files.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the use of the list and dictionary data structures.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the basics of object-oriented programming by creating a class and objects from that class.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

## Course Notes

This course will make use of Blackboard (<http://blackboard.usc.edu>) for content and assignments. Lecture slides and any supplemental course content will be posted to Blackboard for use by all students. All assignments will be posted to Blackboard and will be submitted through Blackboard. Please familiarize yourself with Blackboard before the course begins.

## Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Students will need a computer (laptop or desktop) and access to the internet. If you do not have access to a computer, please see below. All software needed for the course is available for free.

The software needed for this course is available for free online. All homework and projects will need this software to be completed (available for Mac and Windows). Download the latest version of Python 3.

Python 3.x <https://www.python.org/downloads/>

You will also need to download and install PyCharm, which is an integrated design environment (IDE) for writing code and creating project. You may feel free to use another IDE such as Eclipse or NetBeans, especially if you are already familiar with one.

PyCharm <http://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/download/>

Choose the Free Community Edition

## USC Technology Rental Program

We realize that attending classes online and completing coursework remotely requires access to technology that not all students possess. If you need resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. To apply, please [submit an application](#). The Student Basic Needs team will contact all applicants in early August and distribute equipment to eligible applicants prior to the start of the fall semester.

## USC Technology Support Links

- [Zoom information for students](#)
- [Blackboard help for students](#)
- [Software available to USC Campus](#)

**Required Readings and Supplementary Materials:**

Wentworth, P., Elkner, J., Downey, A. B., Meyers, C. (2012). *Learning with Python 3: How to Think Like a Computer Scientist*. <http://openbookproject.net/thinkcs/python/english3e/>

**Grading Breakdown**

Category	% of Grade
Coding Assignments (weighted proportionally)	50
In-Class Labs	15
Test	15
Final Project	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	100

**Grading Scale**

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	>= 93
A-	>= 90 and < 93
B+	>= 87 and < 90
B	>= 83 and < 87
B-	>= 80 and < 83
C+	>= 77 and < 80
C	>= 73 and < 77
C-	>= 70 and < 73
D+	>= 67 and < 70
D	>= 65 and < 67
F	< 65

**General Policies**

Students are expected to:

- Attend (or watch videos of) lectures and complete the in-class labs
- Complete the individual assignments
- Complete the test
- Complete the individual final project

**Adding the Course after Week 1**

Per university policy, students are allowed to add the course until the end of week 3. Any students wishing to add the course should plan on attending the course from the beginning of the semester. Upon adding the course after week 1, the student should email the instructor immediately to make a plan for completion of work and learning missed materials. Any missed work is required to be completed and submitted according to the schedule provided by the instructor. If you register for the class after assignments/labs are due, then you will have one week from when you registered for the class to submit the assignments. If you add the class during the third week of classes, then you must meet with the instructor to create a plan together on how to catch up to the rest of the class. By the end of week 3, three labs and two assignments are due.

**Assignment Submission Policy**

There will be approximately 11 coding assignments which will be due on Friday at 11:59 pm PT (Pacific Time). Each assignment covers the material from the previous week(s). For example, Assignment 1 covers the material from week 1, and is due on Friday during week 2. The assignments will be posted on Blackboard under the "Assignments" section. Each assignment will include instructions and a link for electronic submission. Assignments must be submitted using this link. You must code the solutions according to the content taught in this course. Using coding techniques and modules outside the content of this course is not allowed and will receive 0 points.

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Each assignment must be completed individually. Do not collaborate with other students for these assignments. If you need help, please post on Piazza.

### **Assignment Late Policy**

It is the student's responsibility to submit assignments on or before the due date. Assignments may be submitted within three days with a late penalty. Assignments turned in one day (24 hours) late will have 10% of the total points deducted from the graded score. Assignments turned in over one day and up to two days (> 24 hours and <= 48 hours) late will have 30% of the total points deducted from the graded score. Assignments turned in over two days and up to three days (> 48 hours and <= 72 hours) late will have 50% of the total points deducted from the graded score. After three days, submissions will not be accepted, and the score for the assignment will be a 0.

### **Assignment Grading Timeline**

Assignments will be graded within two weeks. Students have one week to contest a grade once it has been posted on Blackboard. After this one week, the grade will not be changed. To contest a grade, create a private post on Piazza and select the grades folder. In the post, include your name, your instructor, your section, the assignment name, and your reasons. This will allow the grader, instructor, and head CTA (Course Teaching Assistant) to view your submission and make a decision.

### **In-Class Labs**

There will be in-class labs, almost weekly. Of the labs that you are required to complete as announced in class, the two lowest scores will be dropped. Labs are due on Saturday at 11:59 pm PT (Pacific Time). The labs should be done the day they are assigned, but the deadline is being extended this semester due to students physically being in different time zones. Labs must be submitted on Blackboard. Late labs will not be accepted.

### **Tests**

No make-up texts (except for documented medical or family emergencies) will be offered. If you will not be able to attend a test due to an athletic game or other valid reason, then you must coordinate with the instructor before the test is given. You may arrange to take the test before you leave, with an approved university personnel during the time you are gone, or within the week the test is given. If you do not take a test, then you will receive a 0 for the test.

If you need accommodations authorized by DSP (Disability Services and Programs), notify the instructor at least two weeks before the test. This will allow time for arrangements to be made.

### **Final Project**

The final project replaces the final exam. This comprehensive assignment will be due during Finals Week and needs to be submitted by the due date. Late projects will not be accepted and will receive a 0.

### **ITP Computers**

ITP has a limited number of laptops that are available to borrow for ITP classes. This semester, ITP is working with Viterbi IT (VIT) to facilitate the shipping and/or pick-up of loaner devices for ITP students. Eligible students will be able to borrow a MacBook or Dell XPS for ITP coursework once their request is approved and their contract is signed via DocuSign. Though the initial loan period is 7 days, they will still be able to renew their device and extend the loan period as in previous semesters. They will need to pop into one of ITP's Zoom device check-in sessions before the end of each week. If all of them have been checked out, then the student will be placed on the waiting list. Information about the ITP Loaner Laptop Program and the request form can be found at <https://itp.usc.edu/current-students/itp-device-check-outs/>

You will not be able to save your work on the ITP lab computers and the ITP laptops. Once they are restarted, all work will be deleted. Use an external USB drive or a repository like GitHub or Dropbox to save your work. ITP is not responsible for any lost work.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is not part of the grading breakdown, although attending lectures will help you learn the material and succeed in this class.

## **Remote Learning Policies/Zoom Etiquette**

The instructor expects you to pay attention during lectures and be an active learner. Chatting while the instructor is talking, texting on your mobile device, and participating on social media sites during class is disrespectful to the instructor and your classmates. If you are not able to attend lectures, then you should watch the recorded lectures and complete the in-class labs.

## **Synchronous session recording notice**

All synchronous class sessions will be recorded and provided to all students asynchronously.

## **Academic Integrity**

SCampus is USC's Student Guide to Policies and Conduct Code and can be found at <http://scampus.usc.edu>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards (SJACS) for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

Assignments and projects in computer programming courses are *different* from those in some other types of courses. Students may NOT collaborate, work together, share code, or in any way exchange solutions for assignments and projects. Assignments may be analyzed by software that looks for similarity. Any sharing of ideas or code will be considered a violation of academic integrity (cheating); an SJACS report will be filed with the recommended penalty of an F in the course. Do not share your code with anyone else in this or a future section of the course, as allowing someone else to copy your code carries the same penalty as you copying the code yourself.

If the instructor, a grader, or a lab assistant suspects you of academic dishonesty, it has to be reported to SJACS. Do not share assignments with another person. Do not submit another person's work as your own. Do not look at other students' papers during tests. Do not leave the room during a test without permission. Do not cheat! As Trojans, we are faithful, scholarly, skillful, courageous, and ambitious.

## **Sharing of Course Material**

Do not reproduce, distribute, or post any lecture material, assignments, or tests publicly without the written consent of the instructor. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own use. They may not post the course materials on sites such as CourseHero. Doing so is a copyright violation and an academic integrity violation that will be dealt with accordingly.

## **Communication**

The preferred way to communicate with instructors and CTAs is posting on Piazza (<http://piazza.com>). All ITP 115 students, instructors, and CTAs will have access to the same class on Piazza. Information about accessing Piazza is available on Blackboard. If you have questions about assignments, labs, tests, and other aspects about this course, please post on Piazza. You are able to make public posts which all members can see and answer or private posts to individuals, which are only accessible to instructors and CTAs. To make a private post to all instructors and CTAs, next to "Post to" select the "Individual Students(s) / Instructor(s)" option and enter Instructors in the text field.

**Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown**

	<b>Topics/Daily Activities</b>	<b>In-Class Lab*</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Python Introduction Print and Variables		Assignment 0
<b>Week 2</b>	Variables and Math Operators Input and Calling Functions	Lab 1	Assignment 1
<b>Week 3</b>	Branching Boolean Expressions	Lab 2	Assignment 2
<b>Week 4</b>	While Loops	Lab 3	Assignment 3
<b>Week 5</b>	For Loops	Lab 4	Assignment 4
<b>Week 6</b>	String Processing Lists Part 1	Lab 5	Assignment 5
<b>Week 7</b>	Lists Part 2 Lists and String	Lab 6	Assignment 6
<b>Week 8</b>	Test		Test
<b>Week 9</b>	Functions Part 1	Lab 7	
<b>Week 10</b>	Functions Part 2	Lab 8	Assignment 7
<b>Week 11</b>	Files (read and write)	Lab 9	Assignment 8
<b>Week 12</b>	Dictionaries	Lab 10	Assignment 9
<b>Week 13</b>	Objects Part 1	Lab 11	Assignment 10
<b>Week 14</b>	Objects Part 2	Lab 12	Final Project
<b>Week 15</b>	Various Python Modules		Final Project
<b>FINALS</b>			Final Project

\* For asynchronous participants, each in-class lab is due on Saturday by 11:59 pm PT (Pacific Time) the week it is assigned.

\*\* Each assignment covers the material from the previous week(s) and is due on Friday by 11:59 pm PT the week it is assigned.

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](https://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Support Systems:

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*

[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call*

[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298*

[eetix.usc.edu](https://eetix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*

[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*

[dsp.usc.edu](https://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710*

[campussupport.usc.edu](https://campussupport.usc.edu)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

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*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.