# COSC 1306 COURSE SYLLABUS

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| ***Semester and Year Course Offered*** | Fall 2017 |
| ***Department*** | Computer Science |
| ***Course Number and Name:*** | **1306—*Computer Science and Programming*** |
| ***Instructor:*** | Jehan-François Pâris |
| ***E-mail Address:*** | jfparis AT uh DOT edu (very best way to reach me) |
| ***Office:*** | PGH 569 |
| ***Telephone:*** | 713-743-3341 (during office hours) |
| ***Class Schedule*** | MW 2:30-4:00 pm in SEC 104 |
| ***Office Hours:*** | MW 4:30-5:00 and 7:05-7:35 pm in PGH 569<br>(or Einstein Bagels) |
| ***Web Page:*** | http://www.cs.uh.edu/~paris/1306/resources.htm |
| ***Piazza:*** | https://piazza.com/uh/fall2017/cosc1306 |
| ***Teaching Assistants:*** | ***Gandhimathi Velusamy*** (MW 1-2 pm in PGH 223)<br>gvelusamy AT uh DOT edu |
| | ***Christos Smailis*** (MW 4:00-5:30 pm in PGH 223)<br>smailisch AT gmail DOT com |
| | ***Samad Virani*** (MW 5:30-6:45 pm in PGH 223 )<br>virani.samad AT gmail DOT com |
| ***Mentors*** | ***Nguyen Hoang*** (MTuWF 10-12 noon in PGH 224) |
| | ***Anh Nguyen*** (TuTh 10-11:30 am in PGH 224) |
| | ***Juan Buena*** (MW 9:30-11:30 AM(?) in PGH 224) |

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***The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course***.

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

COSC 1306 will survey the basic hardware and software components of a computer system and introduce students to algorithmic thinking. The programming assignments will be in Python, in order to relieve the beginner from the drudgery of conventional programming languages. College algebra is a prerequisite.

Regular course attendance is expected from all students. ***Students are requested to bring a functioning laptop computer to every class.***

## MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMINATIONS

Grades will be based on three quizzes (each worth 20 percent of your semester average), class participation (at least 5 percent) and five assignments (at most 35 percent total). ***People failing the assignments or the examinations will fail the course.***

All tests will be ***closed book***. You will be responsible for all materials discussed in class (but not for the readings). You will be allowed ***a single 8.5"×11" page*** of notes for each test ***and*** an instructor approved two-page preprinted Python "cheat sheet."

All programming assignments will be in Python. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of ***5 points per day*** unless announced otherwise. You will be given one grace day per assignment to be used at your own discretion. (You can turn in all your assignments one day late or use all your grace days for a single assignment.)

Under no circumstances can credit for additional assignments be granted to any student, because it would be unfair to the overwhelming majority of students who play by the rules.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

No cheating will be tolerated on any graded assignment: ***what you turn in must be your own work. The minimum penalty for any transgression will be an F grade for the course.*** All transgressions will be reported to the UH Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs**.**

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

***How to Think Like a Computer Scientist, Learning with Python***, Interactive Edition 2.
This is a free online book. Use this link to create an account and enroll in our course:
http://interactivepython.org/runestone/static/COSC1306/index.html

## RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Toby Donaldson, ***Python: Visual QuickStart Guide*** ( 2nd or3rd Edition), Peachpit Press.

Mike McGrath, ***Coding for Beginners: basic programming for all ages***, In Easy Steps Ltd.

## REQUIRED READINGS

J.-F. Pâris, *PowerPoint class notes* (to be updated as the course proceeds)
http://www2.cs.uh.edu/~paris/1306/PowerPoint/.

## TENTATIVE LIST OF DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPICS

| ***Week*** | ***Topics*** |
|---|---|
| **1** | *Introduction to computers and computing.* |
| **2-4** | *Introducing Python. Installing the Python interpreter. Variables, Expressions and Statements. Debugging. Turtle Graphics.* |
| **5** | *Algorithms* ***.Review*** |
| **6-7** | ***First quiz on Monday, September 25****. Modules and functions. Selection.* |
| **8-10** | *Iteration revisited. Strings. Lists. Review.* |
| **11-12** | ***Second quiz on Monday, October 30.*** *More lists. Files.* |
| **13-15** | *Dictionaries. Advanced topics.* ***Review****.* |
| | ***Final quiz on Tuesday, December 5 at 2pm*** |

## IMPORTANT

1. Programming can be ***very frustrating*** at some times. Ask for help ***early*** if you think you might perhaps benefit of it. Our ability to help you to stay in the course and get a good grade decreases over time.
2. We will use the Piazza course management system for posting assignments and answering you questions. You don't even have to tell who you are! Please use it to ask questions, and be kind enough to reply to those of other students if you know the answers.
3. Please contact me if you have ***any special needs***. We will work around them.
4. Please verify that the university has your ***correct email address***. We will use it whenever we have to get in touch with you for things like missing assignments and so on.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (**www.uh.edu/caps**) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus:
**http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html**