

# Instructor

John K. Ostlund

[jostlund@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:jostlund@andrew.cmu.edu) (or [jkostlund@gmail.com](mailto:jkostlund@gmail.com))

**Hours of availability:** 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, 7 days per week, via email and Zoom

I will be available to you as much as I can, 7 days per week, unless I'm traveling.

**Office Hours:** Via Zoom, every Sunday from 9:00 am until 11:00 am and again from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to my and my wife's medical issues and concern about "breakout" cases of the Covid-19 Delta variant, CMU/Heinz College is allowing me to conduct lectures and office hours remotely during Mini 1 and Mini 2 of 2021. I will be delivering lectures via pre-recorded videos on YouTube, so that you can watch (and re-watch) them at your own convenience and at your own preferred playback speed.** (I hope you will not mind that you that you do not have to sit in a classroom in the evening once each week and listen to me talk for 3 hours straight!) **Office hours will be via Zoom (see above), and I am happy to arrange individual or group Zoom sessions to discuss any questions you have.**

# Teaching Assistants

Kriti Anant, [kanant@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:kanant@andrew.cmu.edu)

Wen Wang, [wenw3@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:wenw3@andrew.cmu.edu)

Xinyu Yao, [xinyuyao@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:xinyuyao@andrew.cmu.edu)

- The primary jobs of the TAs will be to help me with grading homework assignments and quizzes, and answering students' questions
- They may also hold office hours, to be determined

<b>Course Information*</b>	Course Title: <b>95888 Data Focused Python, A1 Mini 1</b>  Instructor: John K. Ostlund ( <a href="mailto:jostlund@andrew.cmu.edu">jostlund@andrew.cmu.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:jkostlund@gmail.com">jkostlund@gmail.com</a> )
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<b>Prerequisites (if applicable)</b>	Prior computer programming training or experience
<b>Description*</b>	<p>This seven-week course focuses on the fundamentals of computer programming using the <b>Python 3</b> interpreted programming language. Students will develop their problem-solving skills using the top-down procedural decomposition approach to build real-world based software applications. Pupils will also learn the basics of the software development lifecycle: planning, development, testing, implementation and maintenance. Assignments will include weekly homework and bi-weekly fundamental checkpoint quizzes, top-down approach programming projects within a capstone object-oriented data focused project. Learners will study how to build professional, user-friendly computer programs applicable to real-world applications in an IT-modeled environment.</p>
<b>Course Materials (if applicable)</b>	<p><b>Primary Textbook:</b></p> <p>Python for Data Analysis: Data Wrangling with Pandas, NumPy, and IPython, 2nd Edition, 2017, by Wes McKinney ISBN-13: 978-1491957660, ISBN-10: 1491957662 <b>(This is available for free online through the Carnegie Mellon University Library.)</b></p> <p><b>Optional Books:</b></p> <p>Automate the Boring Stuff with Python: Practical Programming for Total Beginners (Sweigart, Al) ISBN-13: 978-1593275990, ISBN-10: 1593275994</p> <p>Starting Out with Python, 5th Edition, 2021, Tony Gaddis ISBN-13: 9780136679110</p> <p><b>Software:</b></p> <p>Anaconda 2021.05, Python 3.8 version from <a href="https://anaconda.com/download">anaconda.com/download</a></p>

**Evaluation  
Method**

The final grade will be out of 100%. The grading breakdown is listed below:

- Weekly Homework 20%
- Bi-Weekly Quizzes 35%
- Group Project
  - Draft Deliverables 10%
  - Final Deliverables 35%

I assign letter grades to each homework, quiz, and Group Project deliverable, then compute a course grade from these letter grades. On homework assignments, 90 or better out of 100 points is an A. Quizzes and Group Project deliverables are graded according to the Grading Scale below.

Letter grades have these Heinz standard QPA points:

<b>A+</b>	4.33	<b>A</b>	4.00	<b>A-</b>	3.67
<b>B+</b>	3.33	<b>B</b>	3.00	<b>B-</b>	2.67
<b>C+</b>	2.33	<b>C</b>	2.00	<b>C-</b>	1.67
<b>D+</b>	1.33	<b>D</b>	1.00	<b>D-</b>	0.67

Suppose your Homework and Draft Deliverable average grades were A (which is more or less expected), that your three Quiz grades were A, A+, and B+, and that your Final Deliverables average grade was A-. Then your course grade QPA would be:

$$4.00 * 0.20 + [(4.00 + 4.33 + 3.33) / 3] * 0.35 + 4.00 * 0.10 + 3.67 * 0.35 \\ == 3.84483$$

I round rather than truncating, so this becomes a course letter grade of A.

In order to get an A+ course letter grade, your course grade QPA must be > 4.0 (strictly greater than 4.0).

<b>Learning/Course Objectives*</b>	<p>Use the Python IDLE, Spyder, and/or PyCharm integrated development environments (IDEs) in interactive and script mode to both test code snippets and author professional programs. Also, use Jupyter notebooks in interactive mode.</p> <p>Learn Windows text command line usage for writing and executing Python source code.</p> <p>Develop problem-solving skills through practice and understanding of the top-down approach.</p> <p>Form and manipulate collections of data: <b>list</b>, <b>tuple</b>, <b>set</b>, <b>dict</b>, NumPy <b>ndarray</b>, and Pandas <b>Series</b> and <b>DataFrame</b></p> <p>Produce modules of function definitions for code reuse.</p> <p>Create object-based algorithms to solve real-world problems using the Python language.</p> <p>Be exposed to the SDLC (software development lifecycle) to understand how software applications are authored in industry.</p>
<b>Heinz standard Grading Scale*</b>	<p>A+ 97.00 – 100.00%</p> <p>A 93.00 – 96.99%</p> <p>A- 90.00 – 92.99%</p> <p>B+ 87.00 – 89.99%</p> <p>B 83.00 – 86.99%</p> <p>B- 80.00 – 82.99%</p> <p>C+ 77.00 – 79.99%</p> <p>C 73.00 – 76.99%</p> <p>C- 70.00 – 72.99%</p> <p><b>* No A+ grades will be given for homework, or for Project Draft deliverables: A is the maximum for these (and more or less expected). If a quiz turns out to be more difficult than expected, I may apply a gentler grading scheme.</b></p>

<b>Course/Topical Outline:*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Week 1 – Python Fundamentals</li> <li>· Week 2 – Collections, Type Conversion, and Web Scraping</li> <li>· Week 3 – Construction and Comprehension, Exceptions, User Input, Functions, Modules, and Intro to Numpy</li> <li>· Week 4 – Introduction to Pandas</li> <li>· Week 5 – Regular Expressions, Reading/Writing Formatted Data</li> <li>· Week 6 – String Handling and Classes</li> <li>· Week 7 – Group Project Presentations</li> </ul> <p>* Subject to change</p>
<b>Schedule</b>	<p>Homework is due prior to each lecture with no exceptions granted. Online quizzes will be given in class during the last half hour of the lectures in Weeks 2, 4 and 6. If you are traveling or otherwise cannot make a scheduled quiz, you must schedule a time <i>before</i> the beginning of class to complete the quiz.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Week 1 - lecture</li> <li>· Week 2 - homework 1 due/quiz 1/lecture</li> <li>· Week 3 - homework 2 due/lecture</li> <li>· Week 4 - homework 3 due/quiz 2/lecture</li> <li>· Week 5 - homework 4 due/lecture</li> <li>· Week 6 - homework 5 due/quiz 3/lecture</li> <li>· Week 7 - Group Project presentations</li> </ul> <p>Note: The schedule is subject to change.</p>

## **Course Policies & Expectations**

### **Assignment Submission:**

Everything must be submitted in Canvas by the due date/time.

If you experience upload problems with Canvas, email me your work for grading IMMEDIATELY, AND PRIOR TO, THE DUE DATE/TIME, along with a screenshot of the upload error. When emailing me your work, I also need you to email technical information to validate the issue (type out what the error message is that you are receiving, computer information, network information, file information, date/time of attempted upload, and screenshot of error) prior to the due date/time via email to me or you will receive a 0% on the corresponding assignment. I need the error information so I can validate your excuse with Canvas administration – it must be validated by error logging. If you contact me about Canvas submission issues after the due/date time, I cannot help you.

### **Late Policy:**

Unless otherwise stated, no assignments will be accepted late. On the rare occasion that an assignment is announced that it can be submitted late, the assignment will be accepted with a penalty of 10% of the total worth of the assignment per day late, up to and including the late deadline announced. Do *\*not\** ask me to make special exceptions for you and you alone – that is NOT fair to the rest of the class. NO assignments may ever be delivered by email. Please do not ask to have a Canvas assignment re-opened online for late submission. Budget for upload time to Canvas. All assignments are due by the start time of the class which it is due (unless otherwise noted).

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Our community values diversity and seeks to promote meaningful access to educational opportunities for all students. CMU and your instructors are committed to your success and to supporting Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990). This means that in general no individual who is otherwise qualified shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, solely by reason of having a disability.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact us ASAP, and we will work together to ensure that you have the correct access to resources on campus to assist you through your coursework and time at CMU.

**Academic Integrity:**

Carnegie Mellon University sets high standards for academic integrity. Those standards are supported and enforced by students, including those who serve as academic integrity hearing panel members and hearing officers. The presumptive sanction for a first offense is course failure, accompanied by the transcript notation "Violation of the Academic Integrity Policy." The standard sanction for a first offense by graduate students may be suspension or expulsion. Please see <http://www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity/> for any questions.

**Cell Phones, Smartphones and other handheld wireless devices:**

Other than during class breaks, please silence ring tones and refrain from engaging in calls, messaging or other use during class time. All devices must not be visible during quizzes.

**Policy Regarding Students Using English as a Foreign Language:**

Assignments in this course are graded with reference to evidence of the acquisition of concepts, presentation format, and accuracy of information. Having done business in countries that use languages other than English, we understand that the use of an unfamiliar language can result in unusual word choices or grammatical errors that are not critical to the overall understanding of the information. Therefore, we will take into account your need to function in a language that may be unfamiliar to you. We will provide feedback as appropriate if we feel that language or grammar you have used in assignments would be best if it were configured in a different way.

**Use of Canvas System for this course:**

The Heinz School uses Carnegie Mellon University's Canvas system to facilitate distance learning as well as to enhance main campus courses. In this course, we will use the Canvas system generally to post lecture notes and related documents and to receive assignments electronically from students.

**Take care of yourself:**

Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress.

All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful.<sup>[L]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup> If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) is here to help: call 412-268-2922 and visit their website at <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for help getting connected to the support that can help.

If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal or in danger of self-harm, call someone immediately, day or night:

- CaPS: 412-268-2922 <sup>[L]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>
- Re:solve Crisis Network: 888-796-8226 <sup>[L]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>
- If the situation is life threatening, call the police: <sup>[L]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>
  - On campus: CMU Police: 412-268-2323
  - Off campus: 911

If you have questions about this or your coursework, please let me know.



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