1 Goals

The primary goal of the course is to acquaint students with the basics of the Python programming language and to introduce them to some of the many tools available for data collection and data analysis.

2 Practice

The course will use two required texts *Python for Dummies* (Stef Maruch and Aahz Maruch) and *IPython Interactive computing* (Cyrille Rossant), but will also make heavy use of online course notes and freely available Python software.

There will be biweekly assignments alternating with biweekly inclass quizzes, a midterm, and a final project.
3 Pre-requisites

No course pre-requisites. No knowledge of programming will be assumed. Upper division standing. Some openness to acquiring computational skills. Some knowledge of what counts as interesting data in your own Social Science.

4 Grading

Grading will be based on exercises, quizzes, and a final project.

- Exercises: 30%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm 25%
- Final project 25%

5 Grading Assignments

Grading of problem sets is as follows:

- **Plus**: Every problem attempted, effort on all problems, commented code. Even if the answers to some are wrong or give incorrect results, effort has been made and code has been tested. If something doesn’t work, comments explain what happens.

- **Check**: Very little or no effort made for at least one problem, code has very obviously not been tested, or code is uncommented.

- **Minus**: No effort made on at least half the problem set, or problem set not turned in.

To get a C in this class, you must earn a Plus on the majority of the assignments. Three Minus scores are a cause for concern and will require a meeting with the instructor. Late assignments will be graded according to the lateness policy, as solutions will be posted immediately.


6  Late Assignments

The general structure of the course is not well-suited to late assignments or missed quizzed. Assignment solutions will be discussed in detail on the day they are turned in, and thus students who turn assignments in late will be at an advantage. Quizzes are designed to test understanding of foundation needed for further work, and without those foundations, progress will be slowed. However, to allow for some flexibility, late assignments will receive partial credit. Here is the lateness policy:

1. Up to one week late: 50% credit for assignment (this basically turns a Plus into a Check, and a Check into a Minus). Late assignments must include all problems for which solutions have not been posted in order to receive any credit at all.

2. More than one week late: not accepted

7  Attendance

Attendance is not a formal part of your grade.

However, be aware that participation is, and participation is always easier when you are there. Also, hints on how to solve problems on the assignments and the midterms are handed out liberally in class. These hints will not be posted on the web page.

8  Group Work

Group work is encouraged on the assignments. The midterm and final project should be completed without any help. To be clear on this, collaboration or group work on the midterms and finals will be considered cheating.

When turning in collaborative assignments, your collaborators should be identified on your paper. The code you write on your group assignments should be your own.
9 Office Hours

Mo  2:30-3:30
Tu,Th  11:00-12:00
     by appointment

10 Mailing address

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11 Weekly Syllabus

http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~gawron/python_for_ss/course_core/course_outline.html