

## 6.149 2015 Syllabus

Welcome to 6.149 IAP 2015! This class will provide a comprehensive, fast-paced introduction to Python. We have a staff:student ratio of about 1:15, and we're all eager to help you learn to code.

### Class and office hours

Lectures are at 11 a.m. We'll be in 10-250 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; and in 34-101 Wednesday and Friday. Attendance to class sessions is required, as we can't provide 1-on-1 tutoring for 300 people!

Office hours are in 32-044 from 10-11 a.m. and noon-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. You will need to attend office hours multiple times a week for homework checkoffs, **including a mandatory interview every Friday**. You should leave at least 30 minutes for office hours visits, but busier times - like right before and after class, and at the end of the day on checkoff due dates - may require up to an hour wait. Please plan accordingly and make sure you aren't overcommitted.

You are required to bring your own laptop for checkoffs, and most students find it helpful to have a laptop in class. Contact the staff immediately if you will not be able to provide a laptop so alternate arrangements can be made.

### Staff

The course instructors are Michelle Szucs, Louis Lamia, and Sylvan Tsai. You can contact the instructors at 6.149-instructors@mit.edu. You can also contact the entire course staff - including our 20 LAs who will be your primary points of contact during office hours - at 6.149-staff@mit.edu. Almost all questions should be directed to the class Piazza page, <http://piazza.com/mit/spring2015/6149>, for the fastest response; only questions of a personally sensitive nature (such as missing class due to a family or medical emergency) should be sent directly to the instructors.

### Textbook

There is no required text for the class. Lecture notes and resources will be posted online.

### Grading

This class is a fast-paced 3-week course graded on a Pass/D/F system. To pass the class, you must complete all assignments, including seven homework checkoffs, two projects, three Friday interviews, and all MITx assignments. **Unlike previous iterations of the class, your code must run and pass all test cases - whether automated or checked manually by the teaching staff - to receive credit.** This change means you will not be able to skate through this class - but it also means you'll be taking away a lot more than a measly 6 units of credit.

There will be no formal exams, but a take-home miniquiz will be made available at the end of the course to help you assess your Python ability, especially if you are preparing for 6.01.

## In-person interviews

Every Friday, you must come to office hours for an in-person interview with an LA, where you will be asked to solve some simple problems on-the-spot. We may ask you to:

- Answer conceptual questions
- Read a short code snippet and explain what it does or find bugs in it
- Write a small amount of code

If you've been doing your work independently and keeping up with the pace of the class, these interviews will be very easy! Each LA will have a wide selection of questions that he or she can use, meaning that asking your friends what the interview covered is unlikely to help you fake your way through if you're behind.

## Collaboration policy and cheating

You may discuss approaches to code with your friends, but you cannot look at each other's code. Experienced coders can easily spot copied code. We will also use an automated tool to analyze code submissions.

**If we catch you cheating, you will fail the course.** You may ask for help or drop the class at any point in time if you are struggling with the material. Learning to program can be extremely challenging, and many students (who go on to be excellent coders) need lots of help in office hours. We have hired LAs who are passionate about helping students learn to code. You should always feel comfortable asking questions - let us know if that's not the case.

We expect that you will show us - your fellow MIT students - respect by not cheating in a class we put countless hours into preparing.

## Deadlines

All homework must be presented to an LA in office hours and are due at 5 p.m. on the listed date.

- Mon Jan 12: Checkoff 1
- Wed Jan 14: Checkoff 2
- Fri Jan 16: Interview 1 and Checkoff 3
- Tue Jan 20: Checkoff 4
- Thu Jan 22: Checkoff 5
- Fri Jan 23: Project 1, Interview 2
- Mon Jan 26: Checkoff 6
- Wed Jan 28: Checkoff 7
- Fri Jan 30: Project 2, Interview 3