6.S189 Class Syllabus

`http://web.mit.edu/6.s189/`

Welcome to 6.S189 IAP 2013! 6.S189 will provide a comprehensive, fast-paced introduction to Python. We have a staff:student ratio of about 1:10, and we are all eager to help you learn to code. In return we ask that you students be enthusiastic and motivated. We expect you to come to lectures, come to office hours to ask questions when you get stuck, and **run your code before turning it in!**

Administrative Details

Class
Lectures will meet at 11 AM in 34-101 Monday - Friday. Office hours will be held in 32-044 from 12 - 5 PM Monday - Friday. Though attending office hours isn't mandatory, dropping by is highly encouraged if you are stuck with a particular problem, and do note that homework checkoffs must be obtained during office hours. You will be expected to provide your own laptop and bring it to class every day.

Staff
The course instructor are Rodrigo Muñoz and Michelle Szucs. You can contact the course staff at any point at 6.s189-staff@mit.edu. Questions regarding Python, IDLE, programming in general, and class logistics, should be directed to the class Piazza page, `http://piazza.com/mit/winter2013/6s189`, for the fastest response. The class has a large number of lab assistants who will help you with your work during office hours.

Textbook
There is no required text for the class. Lecture notes will be provided daily in class and posted online; the free textbook *How to Think Like a Computer Scientist* is fantastic, and is posted on the **Resources** section of the course website.

Grading
This class is a fast-paced 3 week course. Attendance to class sessions is required, as those who miss lecture will soon fall far behind and we can't provide 1 on 1 tutoring for students. Attendance to office hours will occasionally be required for checkoffs. Because we wish to emphasize learning, there are no letter grades. Rather, to pass the class, all you have to do is try! If you attempt every required problem, you will pass this class easily. Ask questions in recitation and at office hours, and email the staff list if you have questions. If you're really stuck and can't get help, write as much code as you can and write comments within your code explaining where you're stuck. Be sure to read grader comments when your pset is returned!

Because the class is large we do formally 'grade' your psets to keep track of overall effort. They will be graded on the ✓+, ✓, ✓− system. Roughly, these marks mean:

- ✓+: 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.
- ✓: Very little or no effort made for at least one problem, code has very obviously not been tested, or code is uncommented.
- ✓−: No effort made on at least half of the pset, or pset not turned in.

To pass this class, you must earn a ✓+ on the majority of assignments. One ✓− is call for concern and will require a meeting with an instructor; two ✓− will fail the course. Please contact the staff as soon as you can regarding problems with assignments; however because of the pace of the course, we cannot accept late assignments as we will be posting solutions immediately.

There will be no formal exams, but a take-home miniquiz will be given on 1/23, which we will review during lecture on 1/24. This will help you assess your Python ability going into 6.01.

Cheating
In short: DON'T DO IT! You may work with friends to help guide problem solving, but copying - from friends, previous students, or the Internet - is strictly prohibited. *If caught cheating, you will fail this course.* There are plenty of resources available to you if you're stuck, and remember that we grade on effort, so there is no reason to cheat. Please don't do it.

Deadlines

For a detailed calendar, please visit `http://web.mit.edu/6.s189/www/calendar.html`. Homework checkoffs are to be completed during office hours anytime before the due date/time. Projects are to be turned into the boxes in 34-101 at the beginning of lecture.

- Wed Jan 9: HW1 checkoffs due by 5 PM
- Mon Jan 14: HW2 checkoffs due by 5 PM
- Wed Jan 16: Project 1 due by the start of lecture in 34-101
- Thu Jan 17: HW3 checkoffs due by 5PM
- Tue Jan 22: HW4 checkoffs due by 5PM
- Thu Jan 24: Miniquiz due (not graded), solution reviewed during lecture
- Fri Jan 25: Project 2 due by 5 PM