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Course Syllabi

Fall 9-1-2018

CSCI 125.00: Computation in the Sciences

Oliver Serang

University of Montana, Missoula

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Recommended Citation

Serang, Oliver, "CSCI 125.00: Computation in the Sciences" (2018). *Syllabi*. 8065.
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CSCI 125: Computation in the Sciences

Autumn 2018

Course Information

- Professor: Dr. Oliver Serang
- Office: SS 408
- Email: oliver.serang@umontana.edu
- Lectures: M 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm in SS 344
- Labs: {section02: TH 1:00pm – 1:50pm, section01: WF 4:00pm – 4:50pm} in SS 344
- Office Hours: After lecture (SS 408) and by appointment
- Course web page: alg.cs.umt.edu/lectures.html

Course Overview

This course develops data analysis and basic programming skills for students in the sciences.

Learning Goals

Non-Computer Science majors will learn how to apply computing to scientific problems in their home discipline. They will learn to:

1. Write short, modular programs of moderate complexity in Python.
2. Read and write data with different formats, including spreadsheet files.
3. Apply data analysis and numerical methods to solve scientific problems.
4. Understand and use simple data structures including strings, lists, dictionaries, and objects.
5. Establish statistical significance through simulation in the realm of scientific (e.g. biological) data
6. Create simple graphical representations of scientific data
7. Use appropriate testing and debugging techniques to create correct programs.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes for this course are:

1. Students will successfully complete coding exercises.
2. There will be quizzes and a final exam.
3. Students will be able to parse data files, gather statistics, generate simple visual representations of those data, and perform basic simulations.

Textbook

No textbook is required for this course!

Final exam

TBD

Grading

Students will be graded using the following criteria:

1. Attendance (40%)
2. Quizzes (40%)

3. Final exam (20%)

Tentative Course Schedule / Topics

Monday 27 August 2018

- Variables
- If-else statements
- Loops (over range, list, tuples, enumerate, etc.)
- List comprehensions

Monday 03 September 2018

- Functions
- Recursion

Monday 10 September 2018

- Sets
- Dictionaries
- *args
- **Kwargs

Monday 17 September 2018

- Classes

Monday 24 September 2018

- File I/O
- Basic algorithms
- Sorting
- Monte Carlo

Monday 01 October 2018

- Packages
- Date / time
- TSV reader
- Solving linear equations
- Solving with sympy

Monday 08 October 2018

- Plotting
- Scatter with error bars
- Bar plot
- Heatmap
- Log-scale
- Multiplot

Monday 15 October 2018

- Draw gene-gene interactions with networkx; finding cliques
- Plotting genotypes and scatterplots for polyploid genotyping
- Plotting chromosome

Monday 22 October 2018

Brute force + itertools (for M&Ms puzzle)
Numpy (for Strassen matrix multiplication)

Monday 29 October 2018
Eigendecomposition with numpy
Eigendecomposition with numpy via power algorithm

Monday 05 November 2018
Principle components w/ European food consumption

Monday 19 November 2018
Plotting IP addresses on world map

Monday 26 November 2018
Speeding up your code

Monday 03 December 2018
Exam review

Course Guidelines and Policies

Student Conduct Code

The Student Conduct Code at the University of Montana embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, rights, and responsibilities associated with constructive citizenship in our academic community. This Code describes expected standards of behavior for all students, including academic conduct and general conduct, and it outlines students' rights, responsibilities, and the campus processes for adjudicating alleged violations. [Full student conduct code: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)

Course Withdrawal

Students may use Cyberbear to drop courses through the first 15 instructional days of the semester. Beginning the 16th instructional day of the semester through the 45th instructional day, students use paper forms to drop, add and make changes of section, grading option or credit.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406-243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.