

Boğaziçi University
Department of Physics

Phys 48Y

Fall 2013

Programming with Python

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Office hours: 1) By appointment. 2) You can also stop by my office without an appointment; I will see you if I am not in hurry.

Course schedule: You are required to follow/watch the lectures via internet on the page given below. In addition to this, there will be a scheduled (TBA) time during which you can ask questions about the lecture you watched over the internet.

Course page: <https://www.edx.org/>. Navigate to 6.00.1x course. Fall-2013 page will be available late September. Problem sets, exams, and general course information will be found on this page.

About the course: This course is based on MIT's 6.00.1x *Introduction to Computer Science and Programming* course which is one of the most popular courses at MIT.

It is an introduction to using computation to solve real problems. The course is aimed at students with little or no prior programming experience who have a desire (or at least a need) to understand computational approaches to problem solving. Some of the people taking the course will use it as a stepping stone to more advanced computer science courses, but for many, it will be their first and last computer science course.

Since the course may be the only formal computer science course some of the students take, the focus is on breadth rather than depth. The goal is to provide students with a brief introduction to many topics so they will have an idea of what is possible when they need to think about how to use computation to accomplish some goal later in their career. That said, it is not a “computation appreciation” course. It is a challenging and rigorous course in which the students spend a lot of time and effort learning to bend the computer to their will.

Prerequisites: This subject is aimed at students with **little or no programming experience**.

Text: The suggested textbook will be available online and as a PDF on the course page which is free of charge.

Attendance: I expect you to watch the lectures. You are required to send me the progress page output weekly which reports your online attendance.

Flip the page...

Homework: This will be a significant part of the learning process for this course. There will be a problem set every week that may require you to write a pieces of code. The problem sets will be solved online via a web browser. If you are asked to write a code, you will be able to write it on your computer first, test it rigorously, then you can submit it. If it turns out to be wrong, you will be given other changes. The grading will be immediate. The deadline is not flexible.

I encourage you to discuss collaboratively on the problems which can be done on the official course forum on the EDX platform, but you should understand that when you write a code, the work is to be your own (i.e., do not just copy someone's code). Do not be shy about coming to me for help with the homework or any other questions related to the course.

Exams: Your will be given three online midterms and no final examination. (What EDX refers as the “final” exam will be our “midterm 3”.) Thus, there will be no “excuse” or “bütünleme” exam.

The exams are given in the evening as soon as the exam becomes available online. You are required to take the exams in the presence of a proctor in a computer laboratory. Although, the exams are expected to be over by about 21:00 in the evening, be prepared to stay until midnight. This will happen three times during the semester. The dates will be determined at the beginning of the semester and will be announced on the EDX page. Mark your calendars accordingly. No excuse will be accepted due to the nature of this course. At the end of the exam period in the classroom/laboratory, your grades will be recorded. You should not change the answers or give new answers afterwards, although EDX gives you 12-24 hours for the missing parts.

Grading: The weights that will determine the cumulative grade are as follows:

	Contribution
Homework	40%
Midterm 1	10%
Midterm 2	15%
Midterm 3	25%

The final grades will be determined according to the distribution of cumulative grades.