Cosc121S1: Introduction to Programming
Initial Course Handout

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1 What's all this then?

This document contains important material about the way Cosc121S1 is organised and things that you need to do.

Please read it carefully and take note of all dates. An online version is available via *Learn* (`http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/`) together with other resources and information. See the section *Online Resources* for more instructions on accessing *Learn*.

2 Aims of the course

In Cosc121 you will learn the fundamentals of computer programming using the Python language. Programming is the nuts and bolts of computer science; it is an essential tool but only a small part of the overall subject. Programming involves using a special language to issue a series of instructions to the computer in order to have it solve a particular problem. Cosc121 is a prerequisite for all 200 level COSC courses and is normally required as preparation for Cosc122.

Most of the information about Cosc121, including dates, contacts and assessment, is available from the Course Information System at `http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo/GetCourseDetails.aspx?course=COSC121&source=courses`. This document provides some extra details specific to the course. Once you enrol, the information you need will be available through the Learn system.

Week	Beginning	Lecturer	Lectures	Lab
1	24 February	Andy	Introduction to the Course and Python	No lab this week
2	3 March	Andy	Strings and Modules	Lab 1: Getting Started
3	10 March	Kourosh	Objects, methods and lists	Lab 2: Strings and Modules
4	17 March	Kourosh	Conditionals: the *if* statement	Lab 3: Objects, Methods and Lists
5	24 March	Kourosh	Iteration (looping)	Lab 4: Conditionals
6	31 March	Kourosh	File Processing	Lab 5: Iteration
7	7 April	Kourosh	Style and Program Design	Lab 6: Files + Revision
	14 April			
	21 April			
	28 April			
8	5 May	Andy	Sets and Dictionaries	Lab 7: Style and design
9	12 May	Andy	Objected Oriented Programming	Lab 8: Sets and dictionaries
10	19 May	Andy	Graphical User Interfaces	Lab 9: OO
11	26 May	Andy	Introduction to Software Engineering	Revision/Assignment
12	2 June	Andy	Overflow (probably no lectures)	Revision/Assignment

3 Assessment

There are four assessment components: weekly laboratory online quizzes, a mid-semester test, a so-called "assignment" and the final exam. The assignment will be a series of programs for you to write, handed out at regular intervals throughout the course. They will for the most part be automatically marked by our online program tester, but some of them will also be assessed by

staff for readability and 'style'. This set of assignment programs will also be referred to as the *assignment superquiz*.

The mark distribution is as follows:

What	Weight	Due	Where
Lab Quizzes	10%	Weekly	Electronic submission
Mid-course quiz/test	15%	Mid-course (tba)	Electronic submission
Assignment Superquiz	20%	At regular intervals through the course	Electronic submission
Examination	55%	See CIS	See CIS

3.1 Mid-Course Quiz/Test

An online test will be administered in the middle of the course: details to be announced. The quiz/test will be worth 15% of your course grade. The test will be an open book online examination, similar in style and question-type to the lab quizzes, but invigilated and with a strict time limit.

3.2 Programming Assignment

As explained above, the programming assignment is actually a series of stand-alone programs handed out throughout the course, starting in the third week. These will be submitted through the same online quiz system that is used in labs. Each quiz question will have a due date and unless specified otherwise in the task description late submissions will not be accepted.

3.3 Examination

The examination will be 3 hours long (to be confirmed) and will count for 55% of the final grade. It is a closed book examination — textbooks, written material and calculators will *not* be allowed. The date and location of examinations is determined by the Registry, not the department. They'll be sent to you by email when they've been finalised. Also, they will be available through the University Course Information System.

If you have an examination clash then please consult the course supervisor *immediately*.

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Enjoy the Course!

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