

Syllabus

Course Information

- Semester and Year: Fall 2026
- Course Title: Introduction to Computing w/Python
- Course Prefix and Number: CSC 101
- Section Number: 31345 (in-person), 31346 (online)
- Credit Hours: 3
- Start Date: Tuesday, 9/8/2026
- End Date: Friday, 12/18/2026
- Section 31345 (Hybrid/In-Person)
 - Room Number: CM-453
 - Meetings Days/Times: Thursday Eve, 5:30pm-7:25pm (9/9/2026 to 12/16/2026)
 - Class Format: Hybrid, In-Person
- Section 31346 (Online)
 - Room Number: N/A – Class is held in Canvas (please see due dates in Canvas)
 - Meetings Days/Times: N/A – Class is held in Canvas (please see due dates in Canvas)
 - Class Format: Online, Asynchronously

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Professor Chris L. Santo
- Email: c.santo@scottsdalecc.edu
- Phone: 480-423-6123 (please use Canvas Inbox instead)
- Office Location: Room CM-425, Google Meet, or Discord
- Office Hours: Please see my faculty profile page for Office Hours
<https://directory.scottsdalecc.edu/santo-chris>

Course Description

Introduction to computing using the Python programming language. Focus on basic concepts of computer science, algorithms, and the fundamentals of the Python programming language.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

Prerequisites: None.

Course Competencies

1. Explain the development of computers and the basics of how they operate and represent data.
2. Demonstrate use of Input/Output (I/O) to the console and file system.
3. Develop code using various types of data, control structures, and basic data structures in the Python programming language.
4. Develop Python programs utilizing functions, modules, and libraries.
5. Apply key software engineering concepts including the software lifecycle and debugging.
6. Implement algorithms in the Python programming language.
7. Utilize object-oriented programming concepts in Python.

Texts and Course Materials

Matthes, E. (2023). *Python crash course* (3rd ed.). No Starch Press.

ISBN-13 (print): 978-1718502703

ISBN-13 (ebook): 978-171850271

An electronic copy of this book is available for free through the SCC Library's subscription to O'Reilly Publications. The full text can be accessed at the following link. You'll need to login with your MEID.

<https://go.oreilly.com/scottsdalecc-edu/https://learning.oreilly.com/library/view/python-crash-course/9781098156664/cover.xhtml>

The textbook can be purchased, optionally, for about \$28 from Amazon. The purchase is NOT required because the textbook can be accessed free through the SCC Library above!

<https://www.amazon.com/Python-Crash-Course-Eric-Matthes/dp/1718502702>

You will also need to install a version of Python 3 (3.14.2 preferred or later), and Visual Studio Code on your computer. Visual Studio Code also requires the code runner and python extensions installed.

Please follow the instructions in Canvas. Versions for Windows, macOS or Linux are available.

<https://python.org>

<https://code.visualstudio.com/>

Canvas is used for this course. Please access Canvas at the following link:

<https://learn.maricopa.edu>

The following items are required for this class:

- Headphones or working speakers connected to your computer, for viewing videos and communicating with the instructor during online office hours.
- High-speed internet access. A connection capable of streaming audio and video.
- A Windows or Macintosh-based computer capable of installing an IDE that will run the Java programming language. Supported IDEs include Visual Studio Code and JetBrains PyCharm. Google Colab can be used for the non-graphics assignments in the Chapters 1-10.

Course Policies

The following are policies specific to this course. Students are also responsible for the college policies included on the [Student Regulations](#) page of the Maricopa Community College District website.

- Assignments must be submitted by the Canvas due dates. **Late work receives a zero grade.**
- Code copied from your peer students, websites, or generative AI violates academic integrity, and will earn zero credit.

Attendance Policy

Participation is required in on-line classes a minimum of once per week. Participation includes academic activities such as: submission of any assignment or posting to a discussion board.

Participation does NOT include: e-mailing the teacher, logging on to Canvas. You may be withdrawn from the course if you do not submit an assignment during any 7-day period.

Instructional Contact Hours and Minimum Course Expectations

Instructional contact hours are the weekly time students spend directly learning with their instructor or course activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, lectures, discussions, labs, group work, and viewing recordings. Instructional contact hours vary by course; refer to the [MCCCD course bank](#) for your course's details.

Minimum course expectations include the number of hours students are expected to spend outside of class (weekly) completing coursework. Students are encouraged to use the [Time Management Calculator](#) to help estimate their weekly time commitment for classes.

Canvas Cross-Listed Sections

Two sections (sections 31345 and 31346) of this course are combined on Canvas. You may interact with students from another class online or in-person. If you have questions, please contact me.

Course Technologies

View the [Accessibility Statements & Privacy Policies](#) of the technologies used in this course.

Maricopa Systems

This course uses key Maricopa systems for course management and communication.

- Canvas Learning Management System (<https://learn.maricopa.edu>)
- Student Maricopa Gmail Account (<https://accounts.maricopa.edu>)

Synchronous Communication Tools

This course implements the use of web conferencing and/or other synchronous course tools.

- This course may use Google Meet, WebEx or Discord web conferencing to meet with the instructor or other students as needed.

Streaming Media/Audio/Video Tools

This course uses webcasting, lecture capture systems, YouTube, and/or other streaming media services.

Student Assignment Tools

Homework such as textbook activities and lab programming assignments are completed on your computer through Canvas. This course requires students to participate in or submit assignments using desktop or cloud-based applications.

Students will also need to install Python3 and Visual Studio Code on a Windows, MacOS or Linux computer system.

This course requires students to participate in or submit assignments using desktop or cloud-based applications.

- Google Products
- Microsoft Office 365
- CSC Discord Server – for collaborating with other students and getting assistance from the instructor or tutors. Link to join the Discord Server: <https://discord.gg/bjeebSyPQy>

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The World Economic Forum defines generative AI as “a category of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that generate new outputs based on the data they have been trained on. Unlike traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content in the form of images, text, audio, and more.”

Some examples of generative AI tools include but are not limited to: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Stable Diffusion, GrammarlyGo, and Adobe Firefly.

Some Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Allowed in Specific Circumstances

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be permitted to use generative AI tools. In these cases, specific guidelines will be provided in the assignment details. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is a generative AI tool or if it is permitted on a specific assignment, please contact the instructor for further clarification before submitting your work.

All uses of Generative AI to assist with assignments need to be cited in a submission comment. Uncited uses of AI may be considered a violation of academic integrity.

Grading Standards and Practices

Grade Scale

Table 1 Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points Range
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	0 – 59%

Assignments

Table 2 List of Assignments

Assignment Group	Percent of Grade
Lab Exercises	20%
Quizzes	20%
Discussions	20%
Project: Alien Invaders	20%
*Project: Final Project	20%
TOTAL:	100%

* - Although the final project is worth 20% of your overall course grade, it is a required course component. Students who do not complete the final project will receive a failing grade for the course, regardless of their grade average prior to the project.

Unit Structure

The topics for this course have been divided into 13 modules, which roughly map to the first 13 chapters in the electronic textbook.

Step 1: Read the Chapter/Watch the Lecture Videos

- It is strongly recommended that you read the chapter and work through all the examples presented in the Chapter. This work helps prepare you for the programming assignments that you will complete throughout the class.
- Lecture Videos are provided in Canvas where the instructor walks you through the Chapter.

Step 2: Exercises

- Each of the Chapters have an exercise assignment due in Canvas. These have due dates in Canvas. Late assignments are not accepted. Some exercises will take you a considerable amount of time to complete, so please look ahead. Exercises are worth 20% of your grade.

Step 3: Quizzes

- There is typically one quiz at the end of each weekly module. Quizzes are completed in Canvas outside of class by the due date. You get one attempt at each quiz. Quizzes are worth 20% of your grade.

Step 4: Discussion

- Some modules have discussion assignments as indicated in Canvas. These are required for online students. These assignments are completed in class for the hybrid/in-person students and are not required for this modality. Discussions are worth 20% of your grade.

Step 5: Projects

- There are two projects due toward the end of the semester. The first project, the alien invaders project, is a walkthrough project where a game is built. The second project is proposed by you by the middle of class and completed by the end of class. Each project is worth 20% of your grade

Student/Instructor Interaction

In this course, you can expect regular and substantive interaction (RSI) that aligns with Scottsdale Community College's mission to provide challenging and supportive learning experiences and the US Department of Education's requirement for regular and substantive interaction (RSI) for online courses. My commitment to your success includes the following:

- Being available during regularly scheduled student support hours as stated in the syllabus.
- Sharing weekly information about the course materials, including key information, explanations, examples, and resources via in-person, recorded, and/or text-based lectures.
- Engaging in weekly discussions about course content within discussion boards in Canvas.
- Providing group or individual feedback regularly on assignments.
- Promptly responding to student questions about the course sent via email, or Canvas inbox.
- Regularly posting announcements about the course content and activities.
- Monitor your academic progress and communicate concerns, as needed.

Response Time

Students can expect a response time of **24-48 hours** for the instructor to respond to messages sent via the Canvas Learning Management System. Students can expect assignments to be graded within **one week** of the assignment's due date.

Tutoring

SCC's tutors are available online to help with your courses. You may work with an SCC tutor remotely using Google Meet, your phone, or email. Visit the [Tutoring & Learning Centers](#) page for detailed information on the five learning centers' hours and procedures.

If you need to work with a tutor outside regular hours, online and hybrid students now have access to a 24/7 online tutoring service called Brainfuse. To access Brainfuse and begin working with a tutor, visit the [SCC Online Tutoring Services Through Brainfuse](#) page.

Your best option for tutoring is to connect to the CSC Discord Server. Other students, and often your instructor, will be on-line and available to help with any questions you may have.

Informal tutoring from your fellow students and your instructor is available on the CSC Discord Server. Join the Discord at the following link: <https://discord.gg/bjeebSyPQy>

MCCCD Policies

MCCCD is committed to providing a safe, fair, and accessible environment for all students. This includes laws such as the ADA and Title IX, which protect against discrimination. These statements explain your rights, available support, and where to go for help or more information. Please review the following policies:

Classroom Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) and its associated colleges are committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. physical, sensory, neurological, chronic illness, mental health, learning disabilities, or other health concerns). If you require accommodation for this course, please contact [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS) at your college.

Contact with [DRS](#) should be made as soon as possible to ensure academic needs are met in a reasonable time. Additional information can be found in the [Non-Discrimination Statement](#) and [MCCCD Non-Discrimination Policies](#).

[Addressing Incidents of Title IX Sexual Harassment](#)

Students are responsible for the information contained in this syllabus, the Syllabus page in the Canvas course, and the College Policies & Student Services page located under SCC Student Resources in the Canvas course navigation menu. The instructor will notify students of any changes to course requirements or policies.