

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
Woody L. Hunt College of Business
Department of Accounting and Information Systems

Dallin Fairbanks
Office Room: CoBA 234
Email: djfairbanks@utep.edu

CIS 3330 – Analytic Programming Tools
Course Syllabus, Fall 2025

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 2:45 PM

Course Description

This course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of programming, data structures, algorithmic analysis, and business problem solving. Students will learn programming concepts and analytical tools for solving business problems using Python. The course will cover practical examples of how to use data structures and algorithms to solve business problems. Additionally, this course teaches how to do data wrangling and analysis. This analytic programming course relies on basic inferential statistical knowledge and requires students to spend a significant number of hours developing, debugging, and improving code.

Learning Objectives


Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop a foundation on basic programming and analytical concepts
- Analyze and visualize algorithms implemented in code
- Solve problems by thinking algorithmically and implementing code
- Load, manipulate, and perform data analysis
- Apply machine learning algorithms to identify patterns and make predictions

UTEP EDGE – Experiences



LEARNING COMMUNITIES
Build friendships, gain academic support, and connect ideas across linked classes by joining a learning community



CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
Showcase your creative abilities through experiences that highlight your talents



RESEARCH & SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES
Team-up with faculty to gain experience and make intellectual and creative contributions to your field



STUDENT LEADERSHIP
Develop professional values by assuming leadership roles in your campus experiences

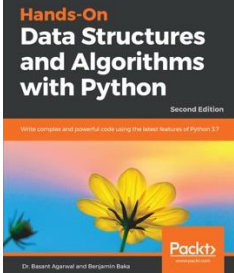
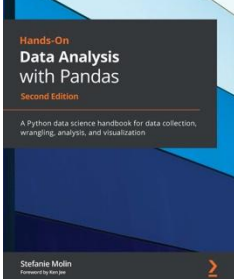

UTEP EDGE – Advantages

 <p>COMMUNICATION Reach mutual understanding through effective exchange of information, ideas, and feelings</p>	 <p>CONFIDENCE Be self-assured through appreciating your own talents, abilities, skills, and qualities</p>	 <p>CRITICAL THINKING Analyze and evaluate issues in order to solve problems and develop informed opinions</p>	 <p>GLOBAL AWARENESS Understand and appreciate people, cultures, and ideas from around the world that impact our community</p>
 <p>LEADERSHIP Step up, think, and act critically and creatively to bring others together to accomplish a common task</p>	 <p>PROBLEM SOLVING Find solutions to difficult or complex issues</p>	 <p>SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY Act ethically and responsibly for the benefit of society and the public good</p>	 <p>TEAMWORK Participate as an effective, efficient member of a group in order to meet a common goal</p>

Required books

	<p>Schniederjans, M., Schniederjans, D., & Starkey, C. (2014). Business Analytics Principles, Concepts, and Applications: What, Why, and How (1st ed.). Pearson Education, Limited. Available for free at UTEP library https://utep.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTEP_INST/1q3tr5t/cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9780133552249</p>
	<p>Hodeghatta, U. R., & Nayak, U. (2023). Practical Business Analytics Using R and Python : Solve Business Problems Using a Data-driven Approach (2nd ed. 2023). Available for free at UTEP library https://utep.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTEP_INST/uk4am/alma991023113849307051</p>
	<p>Severance, Charles R. Python for everybody. Charles Severance, 2009. Available for free at the author’s website. https://www.py4e.com/book</p>

Optional books

	<p>Agarwal, B., & Baka, B. (2018). Hands-On Data Structures and Algorithms with Python (2nd edition). Packt Publishing. Available for free at UTEP library https://utep.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTEP_INST/uk4am/alma991022950344607051</p>
	<p>Molin, S., & Jee, K. (2021). Hands-On Data Analysis with Pandas: A Python Data Science Handbook for Data Collection, Wrangling, Analysis, and Visualization. Packt Publishing, Limited. Available for free at UTEP library https://utep.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UTEP_INST/1q3tr5t/cdi_proquest_ebookcentral_EBC6579305</p>
	<p>Aziz, A., Lee, T. H., & Prakash, A. (2019). Elements of programming interviews in Python. EPI.</p>

Required software

	<p>Python 3.0 or greater. https://www.python.org/</p>
	<p>Visual Studio Code. https://code.visualstudio.com/</p>
	<p>GitHub Desktop. https://desktop.github.com/</p>

Teaching methods

1. Class assignments (CASA)
 - i. It is important for students to come prepared to class and engage in each session. Therefore, before each lecture, students will be assigned a CASA assignment. The goal of these assignments is to test the students' preparation for each lecture. All CASAs are due one hour before the lecture. Only students who attend in person or present a formal justification for their absence will receive credit for CASA submissions.
2. Coding assignments (CODE)

- i. Coding and debugging are essential for this class. Coding assignments that do not run or run with errors will automatically receive a 50% grade penalty.
 - ii. Students are allowed to consult their notes, books, classmates, or the internet to complete coding assignments. However, copying code blindly, or worse, plagiarizing code from others, is prohibited.
 - iii. Students should be able to explain how their code works and why code similarities can appear. Students who fail to explain or justify their code authorship will receive a zero on the assignment and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).
- 3. Exams (EXAM)
 - i. There will be two learning assessments in this class. A review session will be held before each exam. It is recommended that you review the exam material before each review session so you can actively participate in review sessions. Exams in this class are comprehensive and will require students to code.
- 4. Final Project (FINAL)
 - i. The final assessment of the course is an analytical project. Students will have to submit two checkpoints to ask questions about their project. The final project requires students to submit a report and all the code used to obtain the analytics included in the report. The report and the code should be meticulously detailed, affording the instructor the means to replicate the analysis. Failure to submit the necessary information to replicate the report and/or the use of plagiarized code will result in a grade of zero and a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Evaluation

Class assignments – 15 points for each assignment (20 CASA assignments)

Coding assignments – 30 points for each assignment (10 CODE assignments)

Exams – 100 points (2 Exams)

Final Project – 200 points (2 checkpoints and 1 final project submission)

A	B	C	D	F
900	800	700	600	<600

Late assignments

Late assignments will be awarded 20% less credit per day late. Make-up class assignments, discussions, checkpoints, and presentations will not be given.

Extra credit

One extra credit point will be granted to each student for every typo or mistake they catch in the course material (e.g., syllabus, PowerPoints, quizzes, etc.). Other extra credit opportunities may be announced as the course progresses. You may earn extra credit up to a limit of 20 points (or a 2% boost to your final grade).

Email Procedure

Please include “CIS 3330” and your course CRN in the subject line of all emails to the instructor to ensure that they are properly filtered. It would be helpful if the subject line also included a brief statement of need, for example: “CIS 3330 CRN 14738 – Request for Appointment.” Please read the following link about emailing a professor for some helpful suggestions (e.g., please start with a greeting including my name and a signature including your name): <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>.

Accommodations

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, as recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or email at cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located at UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Academic integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Acceptable use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

If you would like further clarification on topics covered during class, you may use AI tools as a review / tutoring tool with no limitations. AI tools are great for explaining complicated concepts and for generating study aids like quizzes.

I heavily encourage that you to **avoid using AI tools to generate code** that you submit for class assignments. You will learn more effectively if you write all the code you submit by yourself. However, you may use AI to assist with homework if all the following are true:

1. You are using AI to quickly generate code you could have written yourself. This means that your code should be limited to only syntax and functions we cover in class unless you have python knowledge from another course or external study.
2. Every line of code that was generated with the help of AI should have a comment indicating that AI was used with a brief description of how (e.g. “# This entire line is AI generated”, or “# I had AI create the basic structure of a for loop”)
3. There is a citation at the bottom of the code file for **every prompt** used to assist you in completing the assignment (see citation template below). These citations must include the entire prompt submitted to the AI tool.

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.” Generated using OpenAI Chat-GPT. <https://chat.openai.com/>

Copying and pasting blindly code directly from AI is strictly prohibited. Students who plagiarize code will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Tentative Course Outline

Module 1: Fundamentals of programming for data analytics	
Week 1	
8/25	Introduction to CIS 3330
8/27	Variables, statements, operators, and expressions / Environment Setup
Week 2	
9/1	No Class - Labor Day
9/3	Basic data types, data structures, and conditional statements - Part 1 / CODE: Python Basics
Week 3	
9/8	Basic data types, data structures, and conditional statements - Part 2
9/10	Arithmetic and string basic operations
Week 4	
9/15	Conditional code execution
9/17	Built-in, type conversion, math, and customized functions
Week 5	
9/22	Read and write plain text and comma separated files
9/24	Data Structures, Algorithms
Week 6	
9/29	Read and write files using Pandas – Part 1
10/1	Read and write files using Pandas – Part 2
Week 7	
10/6	Read and write files using Pandas - Part 3
10/8	Exam 1 - Review
10/12	Exam 1
Module 2: Fundamentals of statistics and programming for data analytics	
Week 8	
10/13	Introduction to data analytics
10/15	Statistical foundations review (descriptive statistics and data sampling)
Week 9	
10/20	Statistical foundations review (data distributions and data scaling)
10/22	Quantifying relationships (covariance and correlations)
Week 10	
10/27	Exploratory data analysis - Part 1 / Jupyter Notebook
10/29	Exploratory data analysis - Part 2

Week 11	
11/3	Introduction to machine learning (concepts)
11/5	Introduction to machine learning (applications)
Week 12	
11/10	Final Project Proposal - Presentations
11/12	Final Project Proposal - Presentations
Week 13	
11/17	Data analysis of textual data
11/19	Exam 2 - Review
11/23	Exam 2
Week 14	
11/24	No Class - Final Project Workday
11/26	No Class - Final Project Workday
Week 15	
12/1	Web Scraping
12/3	Ethical use of analytical tools and applications
12/7	Final Project Submission

Important Notes:

1. In addition to the announced office hours, students may stop by my office at any time (or email me) to ask questions.
2. Students should demonstrate that they have done code troubleshooting/debugging before requesting assistance from the instructor.
3. If you have any trouble with the class, please get help ASAP. Do not let the problems build up.
4. This syllabus is tentative.