

ISOM3400: Business Applications Development in Python

Fall 2026

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Class Schedule

Lecture

Section	Date	Time	Venue
L2	Wed./Fri.	1:30PM – 2:50PM	LSK 1003

Lab

Section	Date	Time	Venue
LA2A	Mon.	2:00PM – 2:50PM	LSK G021
LA2B	Thu.	10:00AM – 10:50AM	LSK G021

Course Website: <https://canvas.ust.hk>. All course materials and announcements will be posted on this site. You are advised to check it regularly throughout the course.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Known for its simplicity, rapid development capabilities, and strong community support, Python has become a leading general-purpose programming language, and is widely regarded as a suitable medium for teaching programming logic, computational thinking, and problem-solving.

This course introduces Python in the context of business application development, emphasizing the importance of aligning technical solutions with business and user requirements. Students majoring in Information Systems and other related fields will be equipped with practical Python programming and business application development skills that are relevant to their future studies and careers.

2. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILOS)

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Understand fundamental programming concepts in Python.
- (2) Apply Python syntax and control structures to solve business problems.
- (3) Build business applications using Python frameworks.

3. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

This course uses criterion-referencing assessment (i.e., grades will not be assigned on a curve). Assessment details, where applicable, are provided below:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course Grade (%)
A. Lab Attendance	5%
B. In-Class Exercise	10%
C. Individual Assignment	15%
D. Midterm Exam	20%
E. Final Exam — Advanced Techniques	25%
F. Final Exam — Business Applications	25%

A. Lab Attendance (5%)

Parallel labs are intended to provide students with additional hands-on programming experience. To allow for maximum flexibility, all lab sessions, except one on HTML basics, are voluntary. Students will receive full marks for lab attendance **by attending the mandatory HTML lab session and any FIVE voluntary lab sessions.**

B. In-Class Exercise (10%)

FIVE in-class exercise sessions are scheduled throughout the semester. They feature practice questions drawn from past exams and are designed to reinforce programming concepts in a timely manner. These sessions also provide students with an interactive environment in which they can ask questions and collaborate with their peers.

C. Assignment (15%)

There will be **ONE** individual assignment released during the semester. Students are expected to apply their Python programming skills to solve comprehensive business problems. Detailed requirements will be announced during the semester.

Late Policy for Lab Submissions, In-Class Exercises, and the Assignment

Students are encouraged to submit their work early if there is any uncertainty about meeting the submission deadline. Submissions made up to 24 hours after the deadline will receive a 25% penalty; submissions made between 24 and 48 hours after the deadline will receive a 50% penalty. Submissions received more than 48 hours after the deadline will not be accepted for credit.

D. Midterm Exam (20%)

A closed-note, paper-based midterm exam will be administered during the semester. It consists entirely of multiple-choice questions and covers all topics taught up to that point. Please note that **no make-up opportunities will be provided under any circumstances.**

E & F. Final Exam — Advanced Techniques (25%) & Business Applications (25%)

A paper-based final exam covering all lecture and lab materials taught during the semester will be administered in the official examination period. The exam consists of two sections as listed above, which together assess students' ability to apply programming techniques to solve practical business problems. Students are not allowed to bring any printed materials into the exam. Instead, a common cheat sheet prepared by the instructors will be provided as an appendix to the examination paper.

Arrangements for the Make-up Exam

Makeup opportunities for the final exam will be considered only in cases of documented health or family emergencies, or for official, university-sanctioned activities. Students requesting a make-up exam must submit the University's request form ([Form EX-16](#)) and appropriate supporting documentation, such as a medical certificate where applicable, to the course instructor by email for consideration.

Score Posting and Appeal Policy

Upon completion of grading, all scores will be posted on Canvas. Students are responsible for reviewing their scores and verifying their accuracy. Any appeal regarding a score must be submitted by email to xxxx. Please note that score appeals will not be considered after the designated review and appeal period has elapsed (e.g., two working days after the scores are released).

4. POLICY ON COLLABORATION & AI USE

For Assessments A~C, students may seek assistance from other people, online resources, or generative AI tools, provided that both of the following conditions are met:

1. **Acknowledgement of assistance:** Students must clearly acknowledge any assistance received in their submission (e.g., in a comment at the top of their script/notebook, or in a short "Acknowledgements" section). They should state who or what provided the assistance (e.g., a person, website, or tool) and the nature of the assistance received. If generative AI was used, students must include the prompts used and a brief description of how the generated output was used.
2. **Understanding and explainability:** Students must understand everything they submit and be able to explain the reasoning and implementation, including any parts for which they received assistance.

Please note that failure to properly acknowledge assistance will result in no credit for the relevant submission.

Students are also encouraged to use generative AI tools to explain or clarify programming concepts and to generate practice questions. **However, whenever there are inconsistencies between AI-generated outputs and the teaching materials, the teaching materials should prevail.**

If you have any questions about what this policy means, please discuss the matter with the instructor.

5. TEXT AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

This course has no required textbook. Lecture notes, lab manuals, and additional exercises (either in pdf or ipynb format) will be posted on the course website.

6. SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

- Anaconda Navigator (for Win-64, OSX-64, or Linux-64):
 - Jupyter notebook
 - Python 3.13+
- Visual Studio Code (VS code)
- Google Colaboratory
- GitHub Codespaces

7. EMAIL POLICY

Please put **[ISOM3400 L2 LAX]** (X being the section number) at the beginning of the subject line of your email along with your email subject. Failure to do so may result in a longer response time.

As expected, there will be numerous emails when it is closer to the due dates. If you need any assistance, raise them as early as possible, and/or make good use of the labs and the office hours. Note that **neither the instructor nor the TAs will provide direct answers to the assignments.**

8. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We welcome feedback on our teaching throughout the semester. students are encouraged to contact me or the TA any time they have any questions, suggestions, concerns, or would like to ask for advice.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

* Note both the lecture, lab, and assignment schedules are tentative and subject to change without notice.

WEEK	TOPICS	IMPORTANT DUE DATES
1 Sep. 2 Sep. 4	Course Introduction Python Basics: Operators, Data types, and String Operations	
2 Sep. 9 Sep. 11	Data Structures: Lists, Tuples, Dictionaries, and Sets	
3 Sep. 16 Sep. 18	In-class exercise session 1	
4 Sep. 23 Sep. 25	Control Structures: if, for, while, with, and try statements	
5 Sep. 30 Oct. 2	In-class exercise session 2 Functions	
6 Oct. 7 Oct. 9	Class Cancelled for the Midterm Exam	Oct. 10: Midterm exam
7 Oct. 14 Oct. 16	Classes	Asg. Release
8 Oct. 21 Oct. 23	In-class exercise session 3 Web Scraping with <i>Beautiful Soup</i>	
9 Oct. 28 Oct. 30		
10 Nov. 4 Nov. 6	In-class exercise session 4	Asg. Due
11 Nov. 11 Nov. 13	Web App Development with <i>Streamlit</i>	
12 Nov. 18 Nov. 20		
13 Nov. 25 Nov. 27	In-class exercise session 5 Revision	

TENTATIVE LAB SCHEDULE

LA2A (MON)	LA2B (THU)	TOPICS
Sep. 7	Sep. 3	Use of Colab, Anaconda Setup Python Basics I
Sep. 14	Sep. 10	Python Basics II
Sep. 21	Sep. 17	Data Structures: List, Tuple
Sep. 28	Sep. 24	Data Structures: Dictionary, Set
Oct. 5	Oct. 8	Control Structures
Oct. 12	Oct. 15	Functions
Oct. 26	Oct. 22	Classes
Nov. 2	Oct. 29	HTML Basics (mandatory)
Nov. 9	Nov. 5	Web Scraping I
Nov. 16	Nov. 12	Web Scraping II
Nov. 23	Nov. 19	Web App Development I
Nov. 30	Nov. 26	Web App Development II

Public holidays:

- * LA2A: No lab on Oct. 1
- * LA2B: No lab on Oct. 19