HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
CIS 180 L - Section 1 - Intro to Python
Fall Semester - 2006

Class Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday   5:00 - 6:50 pm   SH 119
Instructor: Sharon Tuttle, Ph.D.   **Office:** **236** NHW
E-Mail: **st10@humboldt.edu**   **Phone:** 826-3381 (Office/Message)
        or **sharon.tuttle@humboldt.edu**
Web Page: follow link from **http://www.humboldt.edu/~st10**;
        note the link from the course web page to the Moodle site for this course, also.
        (you can also reach your Moodle account via **http://learn.humboldt.edu**)
Office Hours: Monday   8:30 -10:00 am
        Tuesday   1:30 - 2:30 pm
        Wednesday   1:00 - 2:30 pm
        Thursday   8:30 - 9:30 am
        (unless posted otherwise on my door),
        or by appointment.

Required text: none

Course description:
Get a taste of Python, a highly-portable open-source programming language known for its power and its clear syntax. It is used in many areas, from bioinformatics and GIS to web applications and game development. This one unit CR/NC course will help you "get your feet wet" in using this dynamic language, and get a feeling for why Python has been called "an important part of Google since the beginning (Peter Norvig, Google, Inc.).

Prerequisites: CIS 130 or prior programming experience, or instructor consent

Grading breakdown: **Grading scale:**
        Homeworks (~8)   100%   CR: >= 70
                                                NC: < 70

This course will have no formal exams --- grades will be determined by the homeworks (typically one given each session, due by the beginning of the next session; there will probably, then, be about 8 homeworks in all). Homeworks will be graded based on whether you have attempted each question or not.

E-mail:
Please monitor your e-mail for course-related messages. The University provides a means for you to specify your preferred e-mail address, so if you wish to receive e-mail into an account other than the one HSU provides, change your preferred e-mail address in **both** Banner and Moodle accordingly. Course-related messages from me will include **CIS 180 PY** in the Subject: line.

Please include **CIS 180 PY** in the Subject: line of course-related e-mail messages that you send to me; they are less likely to get lost in my flood of e-mail that way. Note that I generally check my e-mail (sharon.tuttle@humboldt.edu) at least once a day on weekdays.

If you would like me to e-mail certain course grades to you during the semester, then you must give me permission in writing on HW assignment #1.

Course web and Moodle sites:
This course will have both public web and Moodle sites. As noted on the first page, the public course web page will be available linked from **http://www.humboldt.edu/~st10**; and, from the public course web page, there will be a direct link to the course Moodle site, or you can reach the course Moodle site via **learn.humboldt.edu**.

Public course web site will contain: course handouts, homework assignments, example code from lectures,
                                        and possibly more

Moodle site will contain: course grades, occasional homework solutions, and possibly more

Both are pull technologies, so you should check them frequently. You are also expected to monitor your posted grades and to let me know about any discrepancies.

Late arrival to class:
Please attempt to come to class on time. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so with the least possible distraction to other students. If your late/early habits become disruptive, you may be asked to leave the class permanently.

Class disruption:
University policy requires that instructors eliminate disruptions to the educational process. Distractions such as excess talking, working on assignments for other classes, demonstrations of affection, packing of books early, chronic late arrivals or early departures, excessive comings and goings or other behaviors that disrupt the class are not acceptable. Students indulging in such behaviors will first be warned before being required to leave the class permanently.

Homework policy:
Homework assignments <u>will not</u> be accepted late; turn in whatever you have done by the due date and time. Note that if you have turned something in <u>before</u> that deadline, you are welcome to turn in <u>additional</u> improved versions <u>up until the deadline</u> (I want to **encourage** experimentation with Python! 8-)).

Additional course details:
*   In the typical class session, (although this is subject to change, based on how the course actually goes), I plan to discuss the topics du jour for the first 1 to 1.5 hours, and then you will have an opportunity to begin the homework, allowing you to further practice using those topics during the time remaining.

*   Note that we will be using **cs-server.humboldt.edu** for this course, and perhaps **redwood.humboldt.edu** as well. Both of these computers can be reached using **ssh**, which can be downloaded from:
            http://www.humboldt.edu/~its/techguides/software/software.shtml

*   Please feel free to send me questions by e-mail! I will gently let you know if you are sending too many (a very rare occurrence). I am also happy to receive URL's of good Python resources that you find during the course; I hope to post links to such resources from the course web page (time permitting).

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change!):

NOTE: there is a reasonably high chance that the order of the topics may be changed; if we find we "need" to cover a topic earlier to understand another topic, I will switch things around accordingly.

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sep 26	Intro to Python, Python basics for C++-or-Java programmers
	Sep 28	Python basics for C++-or-Java programmers, part 2
2	Oct 3	Strings
	Oct 5	NO CLASS; instructor at a conference
3	Oct 10	Lists
	Oct 12	Dictionaries and Tuples
4	Oct 17	Files
	Oct 19	Intro to Exceptions, Intro to Modules
5	Oct 24	Intro to Python objects
	Oct 26	a few words about building GUI's with Python