

**COMSC 174 – Introduction to Computing I**

*3 Credits, 3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab (every other week), tutorials alternate*

**Prerequisites:** Math 30 or 30-1

**Academic Calendar:**

COMSC 174 uses a problem-driven approach to introduce the fundamental ideas of Computing Science. Emphasis is on the underlying process behind the solution, independent of programming language or style. Basic notions of state, control flow, data structures, recursion, modularization, and testing are introduced through solving simple problems in a variety of domains such as text analysis, map navigation, game search, simulation, and cryptography. Students learn to program by reading and modifying existing programs as well as writing new ones. No prior programming experience is necessary.

**Description:**

A problem-based introduction to Computing Science by writing a series of computer programs in a high-level programming language called Python. Students will learn how to use infrastructure, tools, and resources to solve computational problems. Students will master a group of data structures, control structures, programming constructs and techniques that can be used to solve a wide range of computational problems. They will use abstraction at all levels of the analysis design, testing and coding process to create reliable and robust programs.

**Instructor**

Instructor Tamar Richards-Thomas  
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**Office Hours**

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 11:00 – 11:50 (or by appointment)  
Fri. 10:00 – 11:50

**Hours of Instruction**

Mon.	09:00 – 10:30	S237	
Mon.	13:00 – 15:30	S214	(Lab/Tutorial)
Wed.	09:00 – 10:30	S237	

## Course Outcomes

### Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Attain proficiency in scientific programming and data visualization (Python is the supporting environment)
- Attain proficiency using both interactive and script modes in Python
- Understand relevant terminology and proper use of vocabulary related to the course outline
- Express real-world problems precisely
- Solve these problems using efficient algorithms developed in python by constructing a feasible solution
- Implement the solution to the problem by writing a program

## Required/Essential Resources

Laptop computer with the latest version of Python installation

Lecture notebook

There are no required textbooks for this course. However, the following textbook is highly recommended:

Python for Everyone, (2nd Edition) by Cay S. Horstmann and Rance D. Nicaise, Wiley, 2016. (Provided on iLearn)

There are two versions available:

- Paperback: ISBN : 978-1-119-05655-3
- e-Text: ISBN : 978-1-118-73522-0

The first edition of this textbook can also be used.

## Programming Tools

Python programming language (<https://www.python.org/>), particularly Python 3.9 or the latest version, will be available on lecture and lab computers for this course. Python 3.9 version for Windows and Macs can be found at: <https://www.python.org/downloads/>. Please download and install Python prior to the start of the course on your personal computer if possible. When you download and install Python, you will get a simple editor/development environment called IDLE; you may use this for editing and creating your Python programs.

## *Other supplies and requirements*

1. Hardcopy of completed signed plagiarism course certificate. No assignments will be accepted until this requirement is met.
2. Moodle (<http://ilearn.keyano.ca>). The course outline, lecture notes, and other resources will be made available on Moodle.
3. Keyano College email address. I will not correspond with students using their personal email addresses for a plethora of liability, security, and confidentiality reasons.

**Evaluation**

Laboratory Exercises (x 6)	10%
In-Class Problem Quizzes	5%
Tutorial 1	3%
Tutorial 2	5%
Tutorial 3	5%
Tutorial 4	5%
Tutorial 5	7%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	40%
Total	100%

**Grading System**

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	95 – 100	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity, and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 94.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	73 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 72.9	
Satisfactory <b>Progression</b>	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	63 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 62.9	
Poor <b>Minimum Pass</b>	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

*A grade of C- or better is required for progression or transfer.*

## Proposed Schedule of Topics

Week	Dates	Topics	Lab/Tutorial	Notes
1	Aug. 31 – Sept. 2	Python Basics	No lab	
2	Sept. 5 - 9	Python Basics Cont'd	No Lab	**Labour Day
3	Sept. 12 –16	Intro. Module and Scripts	Lab #1	
4	Sept. 19 – 23	Booleans Selection Control: if, else and elif	Tutorial #1	
5	Sept. 26 – Sept. 30	Control Structure: For Loops	Lab #2	**Truth and Reconciliation Day
6	Oct. 3 - 7	Control Structure: While Loops	Tutorial #2	
7	Oct. 10 – 14	Functions and Modules	No Lab	**Thanksgiving Mid-Term #1
8	Oct. 17 – 21	Strings	Lab #3	
9	Oct. 24 – 28	Lists and Methods	Tutorial #3	
10	Oct. 31 – Nov. 4	Lists and Tuples	Lab #4	
11	Nov. 7 – 11	List and Objects	Tutorial #4	**Remembrance and Reading break
12	Nov. 14 – 18	Sets and Dictionaries	Lab #5	
13	Nov. 21 – 25	Intro. to Classes	Tutorial #5	
14	Nov. 28 – Dec. 5	Python Errors	Lab #6	Last Day of Classes

\*\* College closes

**Disclaimer:** Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change

### Mid-Term and Final Exams

One mid-term lecture exam will be given in Week 7 covers lecture materials Weeks 1- 6.  
Final exam in December covers lecture materials Weeks 1 – 14.

## Performance Requirements and Student Services

### Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the [Keyano College credit calendar](#). The Keyano College credit calendar also has information about Student Rights and Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

### Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and notes that may be due.

### Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own;
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating);
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work;
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications;
- The willful distortion of results or data;
- Substitution in an examination by another person;
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment; and
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on [ilearn.keyano.ca](http://ilearn.keyano.ca). Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work may not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

### Specialized Supports

The Student Services Department is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There are a variety of student supports available at Keyano. Due to the continuing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the offered support services will be implemented through a model to respond to the restrictions in force at the time. In-person and virtual services will be offered. All Alberta Health Services guidelines will be followed

for in-person appointments—wear a mask, maintain two meters of physical distance, use hand sanitizer, and stay home if you are unwell.

All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8h30-16h30. The College is closed for statutory holidays. If you require support outside of regular business hours, please inform the support service team, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

**Accessibility Services:** provides accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with a Learning Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact us to request them for the semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact us as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility supports and to book an appointment, please contact [accessibility.services@keyano.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@keyano.ca).

Accessibility Services also provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students, as well as technology training and supports to enhance learning. Meet with a Learning Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies for online classes. Schedule an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist to explore technology tools for learning. Book an appointment today by emailing [accessibility.services@keyano.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@keyano.ca)

**Wellness Services:** offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. Students may access services virtually and in-person.

Wellness Services welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing topics including mindfulness and test anxiety.

Individual appointments can be made by emailing [wellness.services@keyano.ca](mailto:wellness.services@keyano.ca).

**Library Services:** provides students with research and information supports as they engage in their studies. Library staff are available to support you both online and in-person throughout the semester. For a detailed list of library supports and services, go to [www.keyano.ca/library](http://www.keyano.ca/library). For all inquiries, please email [askthelibrary@keyano.ca](mailto:askthelibrary@keyano.ca) or chat with us online.

Begin your research with the [Library's FIND page](#). Search for information and sources for your assignments using the OneSearch, the Library's Catalogue, or by searching in a specific database selected from the [A-Z Database List](#).

Individual support with us is available. For support with citations, research and other information needs, appointments can be booked using the online [Book A Librarian Calendar](#). For support with Moodle, educational tools for assignments, Microsoft Office, Zoom, Teams and more, book an appointment using the online [Educational Technology Support Calendar](#).

Research and subject guides are helpful resources when beginning your research, assignment, using new educational technology, or addressing other information needs. To view a subject or course-specific guide, check out the complete listing of online [Subject Guides](#).

To access additional research resources, including Citation Guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), go to the [Research Help Library page](#).

The Loanable Technology collection is available to support students in their learning pursuits, whether online, in person or both. Items available for borrowing include mobile projectors, webcams, noise-cancelling headphones, Chromebooks, and laptops. For an up-to-date list of technology available for borrowing as well as support available, go to the Library's [Loanable Technology webpage](#).

**Academic Success Centre:** The Academic Success Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus (CC-119) at Keyano College. Students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects, get new perspectives on learning from our Academic Content Specialists, or use the Centre's educational resources. The Academic Success Centre provides academic support services to students registered in credit programs at Keyano College in the form of individual tutoring, writing support groups, facilitated study groups, workshops, and study space. Services are **free** to Keyano students.

Academic Content Specialists are available in the areas of Math, Science, Human Services, and English/Humanities. This covers all courses offered at Keyano. The Academic Success Coach can also be found in the Academic Success Centre.

For the most up to date information on how to book a session, please view [the Keyano Academic Success Centre homepage](#).

**Academic Integrity:** The goal of the Academic Success Centre is to foster a student's ability to learn effectively and independently. Students registered at Keyano College are welcome to drop by the Centre to visit with any of our Academic Content Specialists to discuss their academic concerns.

**Availability:** Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Flexible times may be available upon request. Virtual and in-person sessions, please email to get in contact with our Academic Content Specialists. For the most up to date information on how to book a session, please view the [Academic Success Centre homepage](#).

**Academic Success Coach:** offers you support and access to resources for your academic success to help you to find the Keys to your Success. The Academic Success Coach will work with you to develop an academic success plan, develop your study and time management skills, and connect you with the right resources here at Keyano. <mailto:academic.success@keyano.ca> <mailto:accessibility.services@keyano.ca> [academic.success@keyano.ca](mailto:academic.success@keyano.ca) is the best way to access resources during blended service delivery. The Academic Success Coach is located in the Skill Centre in CC-119 at the Clearwater Campus.

### **E-Learning**

Technology and internet will impact your online learning experience. It's important that you can watch an online video and other course materials, take online quizzes and participate in a live class with your instructor and other students. Live/virtual classes will be hosted in Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

For all course delivery types, you will access your course resources on Keyano's learning management system, **Moodle (iLearn)**. Login in using your [Keyano username and password](#).

Keyano College operates in a Windows based environment, and having the correct tools for online learning is important. Here's a list of recommended system requirements.

**Internet Speed**

Minimum Internet speeds of 10 Mbps.

Recommended Internet speeds of 25 Mbps (especially if you are sharing your internet at home).

Check your internet speed with Fast.com.

**System requirements:**

Microsoft Windows	Apple
<p><b>Minimum Requirements:</b></p> <p>A Windows 10 <b>computer/laptop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Minimum 4GB of RAM.</li> <li>· 10GB+ available hard drive storage.</li> <li>· Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). <u>Microsoft Office</u> software is free to all Keyano students and employees.</li> <li>· Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended.</li> <li>· System updates must be regularly installed.</li> <li>· Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software</li> </ul>	<p><b>Minimum Requirements:</b></p> <p>A Macintosh (V10.14 and above) <b>computer/laptop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Minimum 4GB of RAM.</li> <li>· 10GB+ available hard drive storage.</li> <li>· Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). <u>Microsoft Office</u> software is free to all Keyano students and employees.</li> <li>· Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended.</li> <li>· System updates must be regularly installed.</li> <li>· Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Recommended Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 8GB of RAM</li> <li>· A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommended Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 8GB of RAM</li> <li>· A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free.</li> </ul>
<p>Chromebooks are <b>not</b> recommended as they are not compatible with testing lockdown browsers.</p> <p>A Microsoft Surface or iPad or iPad Pro may be possible alternatives in some program areas.</p>	

**Specific Department Requirements:**

Business and OA programs require Windows 10.  
 Other programs may utilize Windows based tools as well.

**Computer Software**

Students will be able to get access to Microsoft Office 365 for free using Keyano credentials by [clicking here](#).

**Recording of Lectures and Intellectual Property**

Students may only record a lecture if explicit permission is provided by the instructor or by Accessibility Services. Even if students have permission to record a lecture or lecture materials, students may not share, distribute, or publish any of the lectures or course materials, this includes any recordings, slides, instructor notes, etc. on any platform. Thus no student is allowed to share, distribute, publish or sell course related content (instructor, or students) without permission. It is important to recognize that the Canadian Copyright Act contains provisions for intellectual property. The [Academic Integrity Policy](#) provides additional information on Keyano College's expectations from students as members of the intellectual community.

**ITS Helpdesk**

If you are having issues with your student account, you can contact the ITS Helpdesk by emailing [its.helpdesk@keyano.ca](mailto:its.helpdesk@keyano.ca) or calling 780-791-4965.