

# Programming for Humanities



HUM-1600-001 Spring 2025  
Schedule: MW 11:50-1:10 pm  
Location: M LI 1160

Professor: John Gordon  
Email: Canvas Email  
Feedback: [Anonymous Feedback Form](#)

Office: SFEBB 8220-J  
Office Hours: By Appointment

## Course Description

*Programming for Humanities* familiarizes students with the essential concepts of computer programming and its multifaceted application to fields of study within the Humanities. In this course, students will explore the fundamental elements of the Python programming language, related software, and data tools and learn how these components integrate into research in the Humanities. Students will gain proficiency in writing Python code, using software and data tools, and applying these skills to textual analysis and data visualization projects.

## Humanities Foundations (HF) GenEd Designation

This course fulfills the University of Utah general education *Humanities Foundations (HF)*, which is part of the requirements for many bachelor's degree programs. This designation is intended to provide students with an understanding of human thought, culture, and society through the study of both contemporary and enduring questions. The criterion for this designation is included throughout this course. You can find more information about the CW designation here: <https://us.utah.edu/general-education/requirements>[Links to an external site.](#)

## Prerequisites

This class is designed for students with varying programming background levels. No prior programming or technical prerequisites are required. Students are expected to come with an open mind, a willingness to learn, and a curiosity about how programming can enhance and intersect with their studies at the University and their personal interests. Basic computer skills, such as navigating the internet and using word processing software, are beneficial but not mandatory. The course will introduce foundational programming concepts from the ground up, emphasizing applications relevant to humanities disciplines. It is recommended that students have access to a personal computer or laptop for hands-on practice, but accommodations can be made for those without.

## Attendance & Participation

Success in learning to program requires consistent engagement with the course content, classmates, professor, and teaching assistant. This course is designed as in-person, not online or hybrid; attendance is required and a component of your semester grade (see Grade Structure

below). Attendance is taken randomly throughout the semester via attendance questions answered in class.

## Course Study Materials

Various sources are outlined in Canvas modules.

## Grade Structure

Your semester grade will be determined by the following:

Items	Quantity	Points Each	Total	% of Grade
<b>Homework</b>	10	10	100	41%
<b>Concepts Quizzes</b>	5	10	50	21%
<b>Mid-Term Project</b>	1	25	25	10%
<b>Final Project</b>	1	50	50	20%
<b>Attendance</b>	10	2	20	8%
<b>Total:</b>			<b>245</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Semester Schedule

See the Canvas Modules page for full details of each week's instructions.

Week	Topics	Assignments
<b>1 :: 01/06 - 01/12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the course</li> <li>• Computer setup</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Introductions</li> <li>• Computer setup assignment</li> </ul>
<b>2 :: 01/13 - 01/19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overview of programming</li> <li>○ Introduction to Python</li> <li>○ Variables, data types, and strings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Programming in Digital Humanities</li> <li>○ Sources of Humanities data</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 1</li> </ul>
<b>3 :: 01/20 - 01/26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No class Monday of this week: Holiday</li> <li>• Programming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 2</li> <li>• Concept Quiz 1</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Control structures</li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Text classification</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>4 :: 01/27 - 02/02</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loops</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Frequency analysis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 3</li> </ul>
<b>5 :: 02/03 - 02/09</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Functions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Descriptive statistics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 4</li> </ul>
<b>6 :: 02/10 - 02/16</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Files</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public datasets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 5</li> <li>• Concept Quiz 2</li> </ul>
<b>7 :: 02/17 - 02/23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No class Monday of this week: Holiday</li> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Built-in data structures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data structures + Humanities data</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 6</li> </ul>
<b>8 :: 02/24 - 03/02</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Libraries</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Common libraries with Humanities data</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 7</li> <li>• Concept Quiz 3</li> </ul>
<b>9 :: 03/03 - 03/09</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Term project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sentiment analysis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No assignments are due this week, work on mid-term project</li> </ul>
<b>Spring Break: March 9 to 16</b>		
<b>10 :: 03/17 - 03/23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Small Language Models (SLMs)</li> <li>○ Pre-trained SLMs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Corpus development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Term project</li> <li>• Homework 8</li> </ul>
<b>11 :: 03/24 - 03/30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data visualization</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data visualization libraries for Humanities</li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 9</li> <li>• Concept Quiz 4</li> </ul>

<b>12 :: 03/31 - 04/06</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Natural Language Processing (NLP)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Constructing a corpus for your final project</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 10</li> </ul>
<b>13 :: 04/07 - 04/13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Text analysis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Designing your final project analysis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework 11</li> <li>• Concept Quiz 5</li> </ul>
<b>14 :: 04/14 - 04/20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No assignments are due this week, work on final project.</li> </ul>
<b>15 :: 04/21 - 04/27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science-fair style final project presentations</li> </ul>
<b>16 :: 04/28 - 04/30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finals week - no class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final project deliverables due</li> </ul>

## Institutional Policies

1. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability & Access.
4. ***University Safety Statement.*** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).
5. ***Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-

7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

6. ***COVID-19 Resources.*** The University of Utah has implemented reasonable health and safety protocols, taking into account recommendations by local, state, and national public health authorities, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 protocol, please refer to <https://coronavirus.utah.edu/Links to an external site.> Other resources are [Student Guidance: What Steps to Take for a Possible or Confirmed COVID-19 ExposureLinks to an external site.](#), [Registrar’s Office COVID-19 Information and FAQ’sLinks to an external site.](#), and [Housing & Residential EducationLinks to an external site.](#)
5. ***Diversity Statement .*** I stand in support of compassion, dignity, value-of-life, equity, inclusion and justice for all individuals regardless of color, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, language, socioeconomic status, ability, gender, gender identity or expression, immigration status, or any type of marginalization. I stand in support of making our society more inclusive, just, and equitable for all individuals. I stand against individual and systemic racism in all its various forms.
9. ***Undocumented Student Support Statement.*** Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream Center. Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence. The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at 801.213.3697 or visit [dream.utah.edu](http://dream.utah.edu).
10. ***Drop/Withdrawal Policies.*** Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A “W” grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade “W” is not used in calculating the student’s GPA. For deadlines to withdraw from full-term, first, and second session classes, see the U's Academic Calendar.
11. Other important information to consider including:
  400. Student Code: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.phpLinks to an external site.>
  401. Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.phpLinks to an external site.>
12. ***Student Mental Health Resources***
  - *Rates of burnout, anxiety, depression, isolation, and loneliness have noticeably increased during the pandemic. If you need help, reach out for [campus mental health resourcesLinks to an external site.](#), including free counseling, trainings and other support.*
  - *Consider participating in a [Mental Health First AidLinks to an external site.](#) or other [wellness-themed Links to an external site.](#) training provided by our Center for Student Wellness and sharing these opportunities with your peers, teaching assistants and department colleagues*

10. ***Diverse Supports for Students.*** Your success at the University of Utah is important to all of us here! If you feel like you need extra support in academics, overcoming personal difficulties, or finding community, the U is here for you.

### **Student Support Services (TRIO)**

TRIO federal programs are targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services (SSS) is a TRIO program for current or incoming undergraduate university students who are seeking their first bachelor's degree and need academic assistance and other services to be successful at the University of Utah.

For more information about what support they provide, a list of ongoing events, and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **Student Support Services (TRIO)**

801-581-7188

[trio.utah.edu](http://trio.utah.edu) [Links to an external site.](#)

Room 2075

1901 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **American Indian Students**

The AIRC works to increase American Indian student visibility and success on campus by advocating for and providing student centered programs and tools to enhance academic success, cultural events to promote personal well-being, and a supportive “home-away-from-home” space for students to grow and develop leadership skills.

For more information about what support they provide, a list of ongoing events, and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **American Indian Resource Center**

801-581-7019

[diversity.utah.edu/centers/airc](http://diversity.utah.edu/centers/airc) [Links to an external site.](#)

Fort Douglas Building 622

1925 De Trobriand St.

Salt Lake City, UT 84113

### **Black Students**

Using a pan-African lens, the Black Cultural Center seeks to counteract persistent campus-wide and global anti-blackness. The Black Cultural Center works to holistically enrich, educate, and advocate for students, faculty, and staff through Black centered programming, culturally affirming educational initiatives, and retention strategies.

For more information about what support they provide, a list of ongoing events, and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **Black Cultural Center**

801-213-1441

[diversity.utah.edu/centers/bcc](https://diversity.utah.edu/centers/bcc)[Links to an external site.](#)

Fort Douglas Building 603  
95 Fort Douglas Blvd.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84113

### **Students with Children**

Our mission is to support and coordinate information, program development and services that enhance family resources as well as the availability, affordability and quality of child care for University students, faculty and staff.

For more information about what support they provide, a list of ongoing events, and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **Center for Childcare & Family Resources**

801-585-5897

[childcare.utah.edu](https://childcare.utah.edu)[Links to an external site.](#)

408 Union Building  
200 S. Central Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Center for Disability & Access is dedicated to serving students with disabilities by providing the opportunity for success and equal access at the University of Utah. They also strive to create an inclusive, safe, and respectful environment.

For more information about what support they provide and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **Center for Disability & Access**

801-581-5020

[disability.utah.edu](https://disability.utah.edu)[Links to an external site.](#)

162 Union Building  
200 S. Central Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Students across Intersectional Identities and Experiences**

The Center for Equity & Student Belonging (CESB) creates community and advocates for academic success and belonging for students across inter-sectional identities and experiences among our African, African American, Black, Native, Indigenous, American Indian, Asian, Asian

American, Latinx, Chicanx, Pacific Islander, Multiracial, LGBTQ+, Neurodiverse and Disabled students of color.

For more information about what support they provide, a list of ongoing events, and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **Center for Equity and Student Belonging (CESB)**

801-581-8151

[diversity.utah.edu/centers/CESB/Links](https://diversity.utah.edu/centers/CESB/Links) to an external site.

235 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **English as a Second/Additional Language (ESL) Students**

If you are an English language learner, there are several resources on campus available to help you develop your English writing and language skills. Feel free to contact:

#### **Writing Center**

801-587-9122

[writingcenter.utah.edu](https://writingcenter.utah.edu) Links to an external site.

2701 Marriott Library

295 S 1500 E

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

#### **English Language Institute**

801-581-4600

[continue.utah.edu/eli](https://continue.utah.edu/eli) Links to an external site.

540 Arapeen Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84108

#### **Undocumented Students**

Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles that prevent you from engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream Center.

**Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence.** The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families.

For more information about what support they provide and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **Dream Center**

801-213-3697

[dream.utah.edu](http://dream.utah.edu) [Links to an external site.](#)

1120 Annex (Wing B)  
1901 E. S. Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **LGBTQ+ Students**

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center acts in accountability with the campus community by identifying the needs of people with a queer range of [a]gender and [a]sexual experiences and responding with university-wide services.

For more information about what support they provide, a list of ongoing events, and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **LGBTQ+ Resource Center**

801-587-7973

[lgbt.utah.edu](http://lgbt.utah.edu) ([Links to an external site.](#)) [Links to an external site.](#)

409 Union Building  
200 S. Central Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Veterans & Military Students**

The mission of the Veterans Support Center is to improve and enhance the individual and academic success of veterans, service members, and their family members who attend the university; to help them receive the benefits they earned; and to serve as a liaison between the student veteran community and the university.

For more information about what support they provide, a list of ongoing events, and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **Veterans Support Center**

801-587-7722

[veteranscenter.utah.edu](http://veteranscenter.utah.edu) [Links to an external site.](#) (Links to an external site.)

418 Union Building  
200 S. Central Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Women**

The Women's Resource Center (WRC) at the University of Utah serves as the central resource for educational and support services for women. Honoring the complexities of women's identities, the WRC facilitates choices and changes through programs, counseling, and training grounded in a commitment to advance social justice and equality.

For more information about what support they provide, a list of ongoing events, and links to other resources, view their website or contact:

### **Women's Resource Center**

801-581-8030

[womenscenter.utah.edu](http://womenscenter.utah.edu) [Links to an external site.](#)

411 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Inclusivity at the U**

The Office for Inclusive Excellence is here to engage, support, and advance an environment fostering the values of respect, diversity, equity, inclusivity, and academic excellence for students in our increasingly global campus community. They also handle reports of bias in the classroom as outlined below:

*Bias or hate incidents consist of speech, conduct, or some other form of expression or action that is motivated wholly or in part by prejudice or bias whose impact discriminates, demeans, embarrasses, assigns stereotypes, harasses, or excludes individuals because of their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, language, sex, size, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, or religion.*

For more information about what support they provide and links to other resources, or to report a bias incident, view their website or contact:

### **Office for Inclusive Excellence**

801-581-4600

[inclusive-excellence.utah.edu](http://inclusive-excellence.utah.edu) [Links to an external site. \(Links to an external site.\)](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

170 Annex (Wing D)

1901 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Other Student Groups at the U**

To learn more about some of the other resource groups available at the U, check out:

[getinvolved.utah.edu](http://getinvolved.utah.edu) [Links to an external site.](#) [studentsuccess.utah.edu/resources/student-support](http://studentsuccess.utah.edu/resources/student-support) [Links to an external site.](#)