Course Description and goals:
This course is an introduction to computational linguistics. Our goals include the following:

- Understand how analysis of language can be done computationally
- Understand why automated analysis of language is so challenging
- Learn core methods in computational linguistics, including both rule-based and statistical methods
- Learn basic Python programming and core natural language processing (NLP) tools using the Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK)

Textbooks:

1. Required: Natural Language Processing with Python – Steven Bird, Ewan Klein & Edward Loper. 2009. O'Reilly. Important: The printed version of the text is the First Edition. A complete new edition is available for free online at http://www.nltk.org/book. The online version is up-to-date and works with the latest edition of the NLTK. Either version of the book is okay. If you buy the hard copy, you’ll need to occasionally check the online version for small changes. Less than 10% of the book has changed across editions, but some of the changes are important to know about in order to get your code to run.

2. Suggested: Speech and Language Processing – Daniel Jurafsky & James H. Martin. Second edition, 2009. Pearson Prentice Hall. This is one of the foundational texts for computational linguistics. We will read only selected chapters from this text, and most of those can be found online. HOWEVER, if you anticipate a future in computational linguistics, you will most certainly want to own this book.

Blackboard
All assignments will be posted on Blackboard, with all the details you need to complete them. I will also post my slides from each class, and I will post important announcements related to the class. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK BLACKBOARD ON A REGULAR BASIS (bare minimum: on every class day; ideally: every weekday). Unless otherwise specified, please submit all assignments via Blackboard.

Schedule:
The course schedule is still in flux, as I see how quickly we are able to get through the opening material on Python. Detailed schedules will be provided at the start of each two-week period. Here are dates for the major assignments and the exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework #1</td>
<td>Thursday, October 13th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework #2</td>
<td>Thursday, November 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework #3</td>
<td>Thursday, December 8th</td>
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Course credit requirements and grading
1. 15% - Reading and participation
2. 35% - Frequent exercises (every week)
3. 30% - Larger homework assignments (3)
4. 20% - One exam (near finals time)
**Attendance & Participation**
Attendance is REQUIRED, but I’ll give you three free absences, no need to explain, just let me know in advance. If a situation develops such that you will need to miss more class than this, please make an appointment to discuss this with me in person, or email me if in-person isn’t possible.

**Exercises:**
Learning to program is all about practice, practice, practice! The point of the weekly exercises is to give you plenty of opportunities to practice, and for you to get thoroughly comfortable with the process of turning an idea into a bit of Python. Please submit these, even if you know you got things wrong, even if you couldn’t finish everything! You’ll lose some points for being late (see below), but you’ll get plenty of points for the parts you could complete. Also, be sure to copy in results from your interactive sessions, so that I can see what may or may not be going wrong.

**Late assignments:**
For the exercises, you’ll lose 10 points per day that the assignment is late. For larger homework assignments, 5 points per day that the assignment is late. Each assignment is worth 100 points, and as long as there are points remaining to be lost (in other words, up until the 10th day that an exercise is late), it still pays off to submit late assignments!

**Class behavior (University policy)**
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).

**Academic Integrity**
Please make sure that all the work you submit in this course is your own!!! It is your responsibility to know the definitions and consequences of plagiarism, cheating etc. as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, available in the Undergraduate Catalog and online at [http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=244#Student_Standards_of_Academic_Integrity](http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=244#Student_Standards_of_Academic_Integrity).

**Disability Accommodation Statement**
“The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [http://www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.”

Students with any special needs or disabilities (including learning disabilities) should inform me of their needs as soon as possible so that proper accommodations can be made.