

CIS 1100

Introduction

Python
Spring 2025
University of Pennsylvania

Introductions

Welcome! I'm Harry Smith (he/him/his)

- As a lecturer, my job is **teaching**—I'm here for you!
- Find me at sharry@seas.upenn.edu or in Levine 260
- Tentative Office Hours: Mon 10–11am, Wed 5–6pm
- Advising Hours: Tue 10:15–11:30am



About Harry

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| School | Here, then Columbia |
| Academic Interests | Data Viz, CS Education |
| Height | 6'1 |
| Favorite Food Near Campus | Han Dynasty |
| Favorite Album of 2024 | <i>Manning Fireworks</i> by MJ Lenderman |
| Favorite Movie of 2024 | The Brutalist |
| Favorite Authors | Rachel Cusk, Elena Ferrante, Natalia Ginzburg |
| Favorite Video Game | <i>Disco Elysium</i> |

Introductions

Welcome! I'm Joel Ramirez (he/him/his)

- This is my first year at Penn and I absolutely love teaching here! Couldn't imagine doing anything else.
- My office is Levine 269A
- Email: joelrmrz@seas.upenn.edu
- Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4-5pm



About Joel

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| School | Stanford, then Stanford |
| Academic Interests | AI, Systems, and CS Education |
| Height | Short King |
| Favorite Food Near Campus | To be determined... |
| Favorite Songs of 2024 | Like That, espresso, Feather |
| Favorite Movie of 2024 | Wicked, I saw it three times |
| Favorite Painting | Wanderer above the Sea of Fog, Friedrich |
| Favorite Video Game Series | <i>Halo</i> |

Introductions

We have so many excellent TAs this semester here to help you learn.



The Highlights

This course is taught in **Python!**

Videos & Written Lecture Notes to be reviewed **before each class.**

Mandatory check-ins due **before each class.**

Activities and exercises done **during lecture.**

Programming Assignments due **weekly.**

Who is CIS 1100 For?

🎉🎉🎉 Everyone! 🎉🎉🎉

Who is CIS 1100 For?

🎉🎉🎉 Everyone! 🎉🎉🎉

The course is designed with our typical audience in mind, which includes people who...

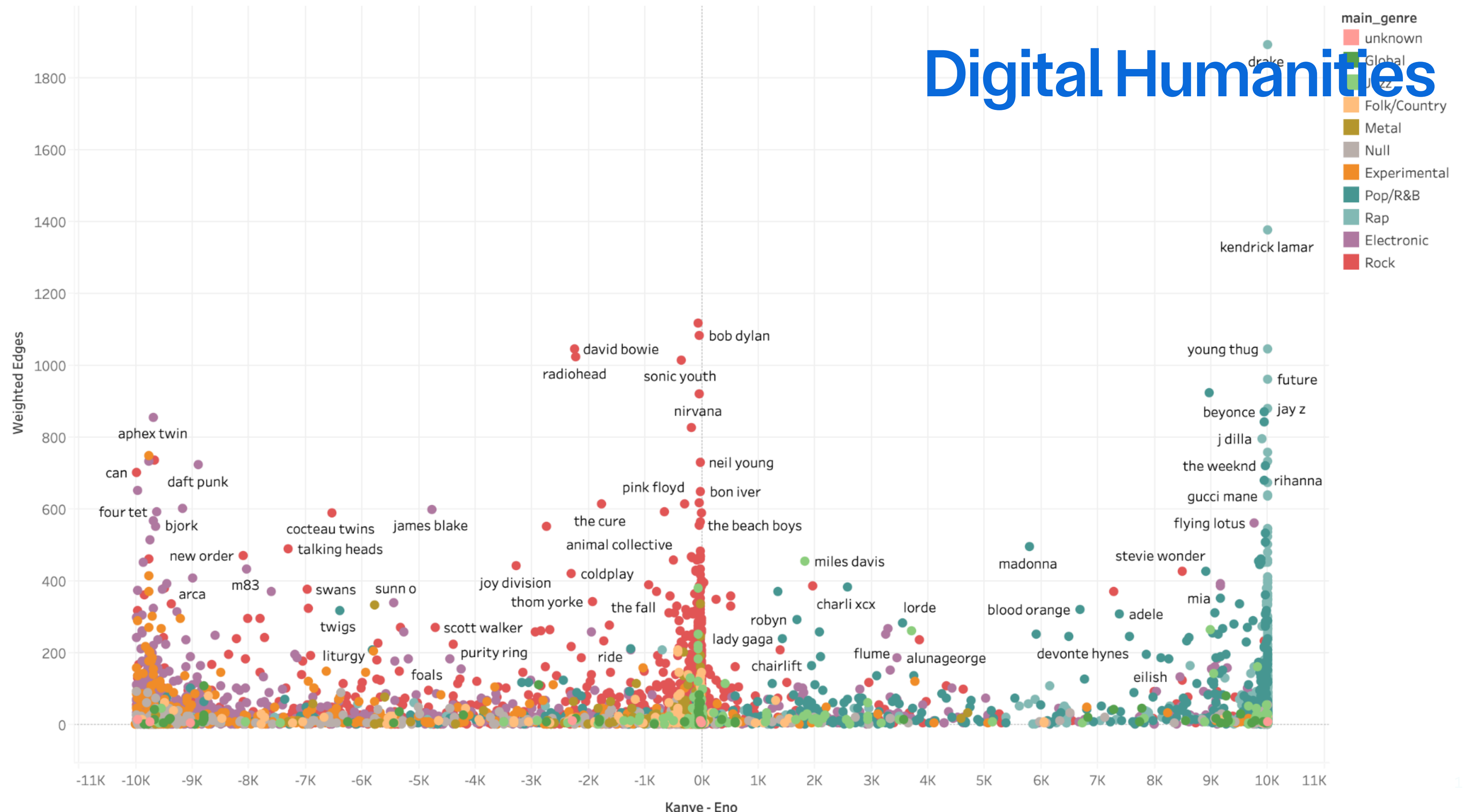
- have no programming experience
- only want to take one CIS course
- want to be prepared to take future CIS courses
- are CS, ESE, or AI students
- are not Engineering students

We are a big-tent course!

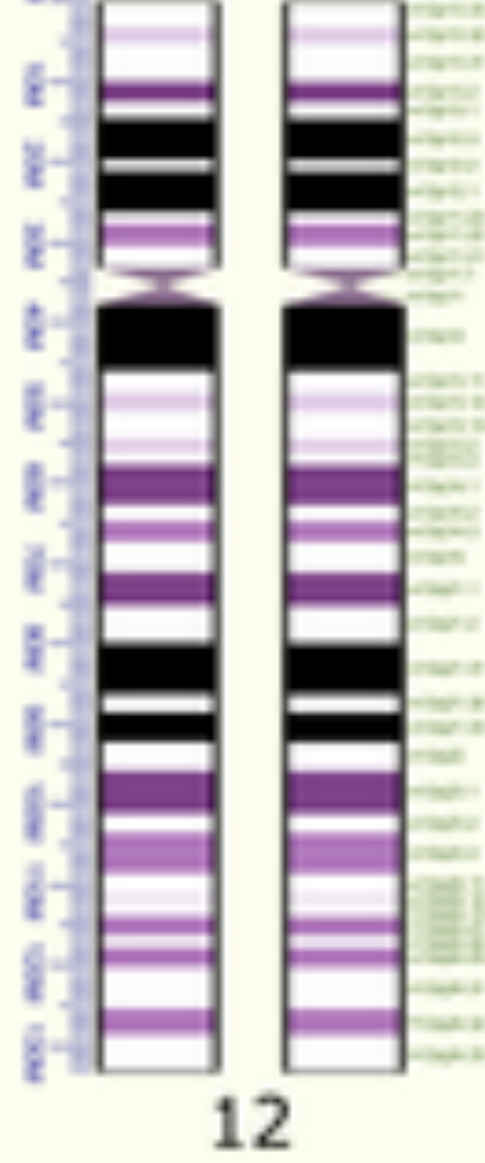
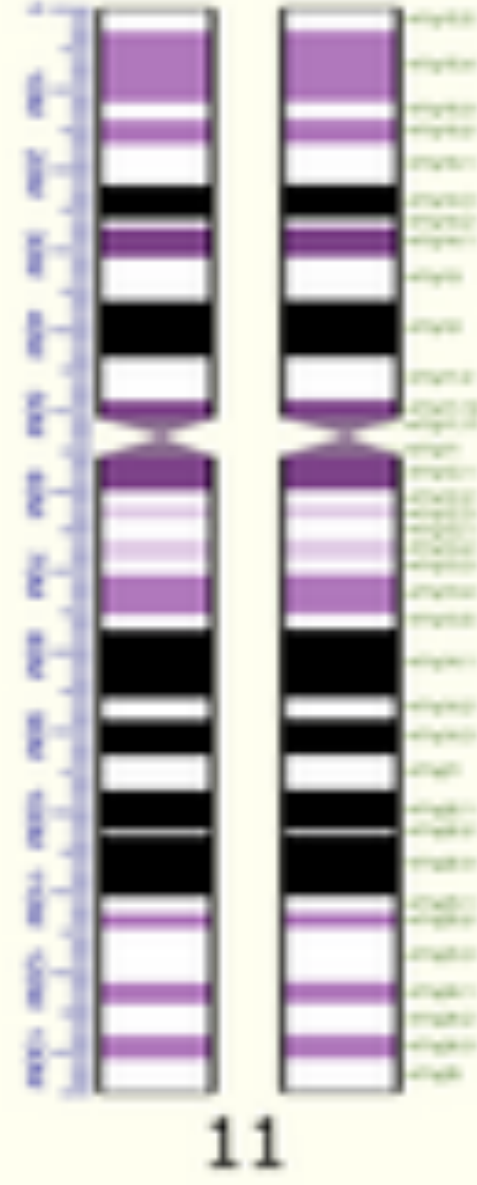
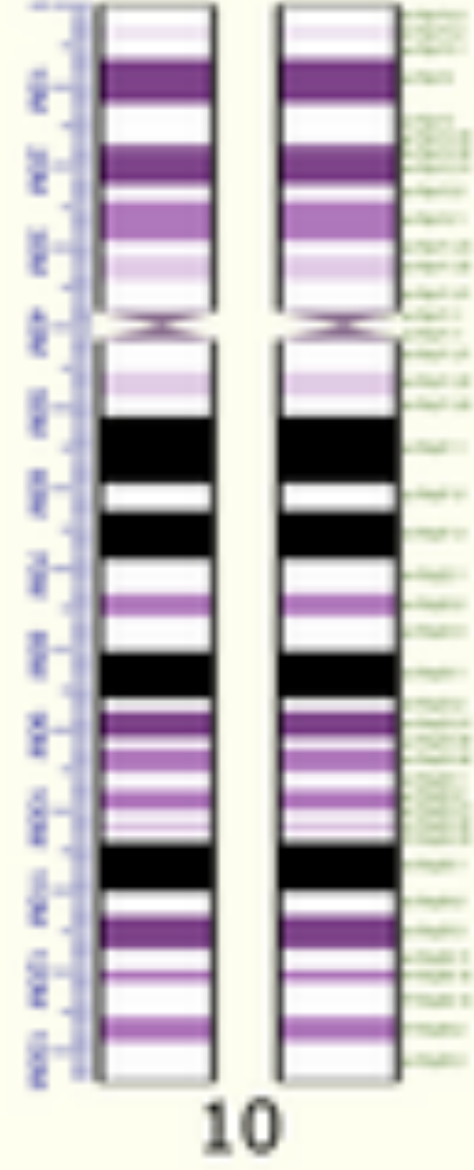
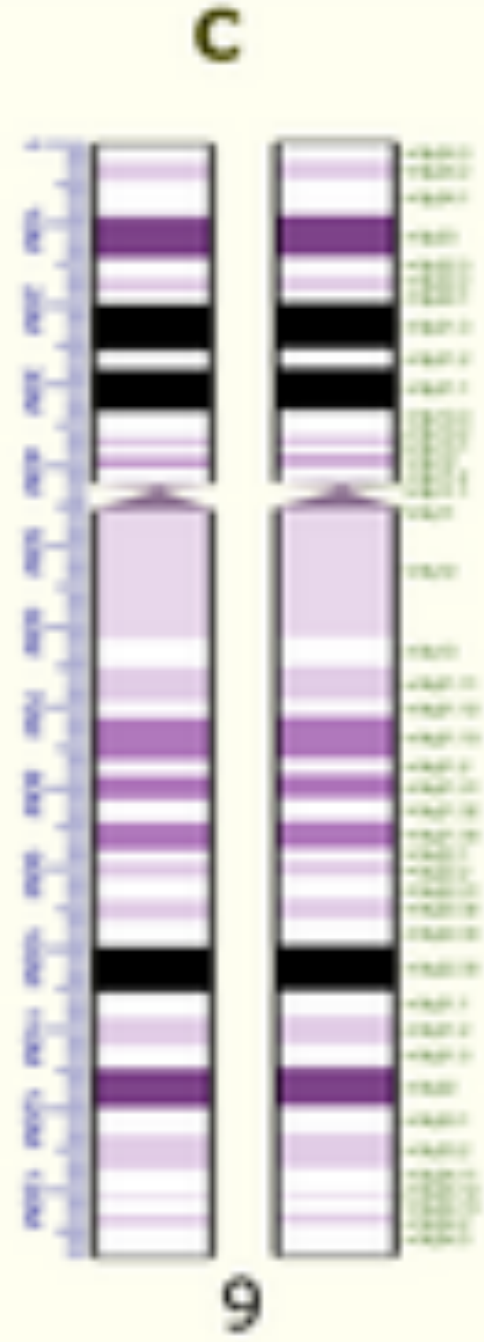
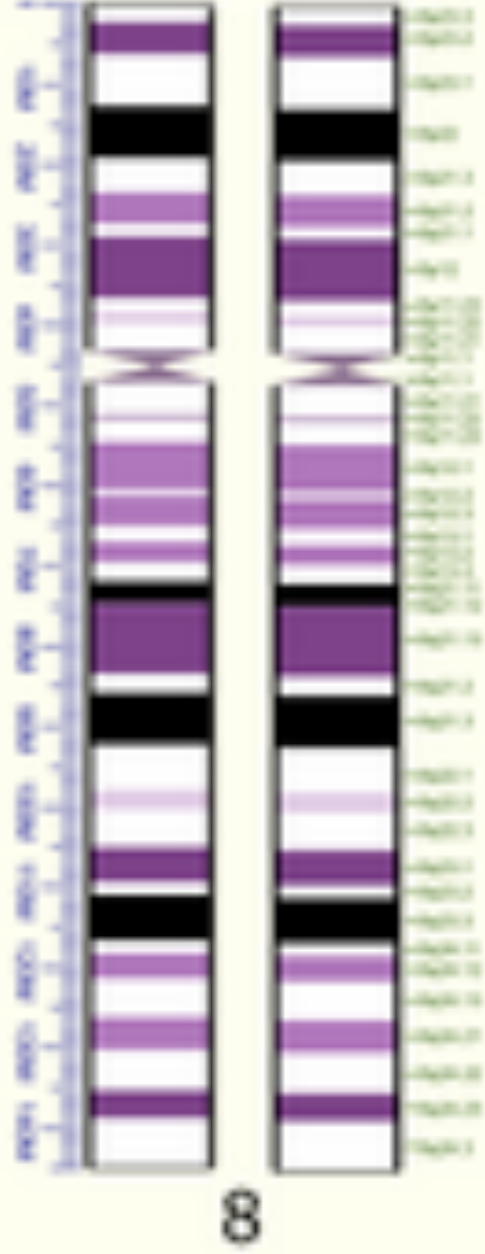
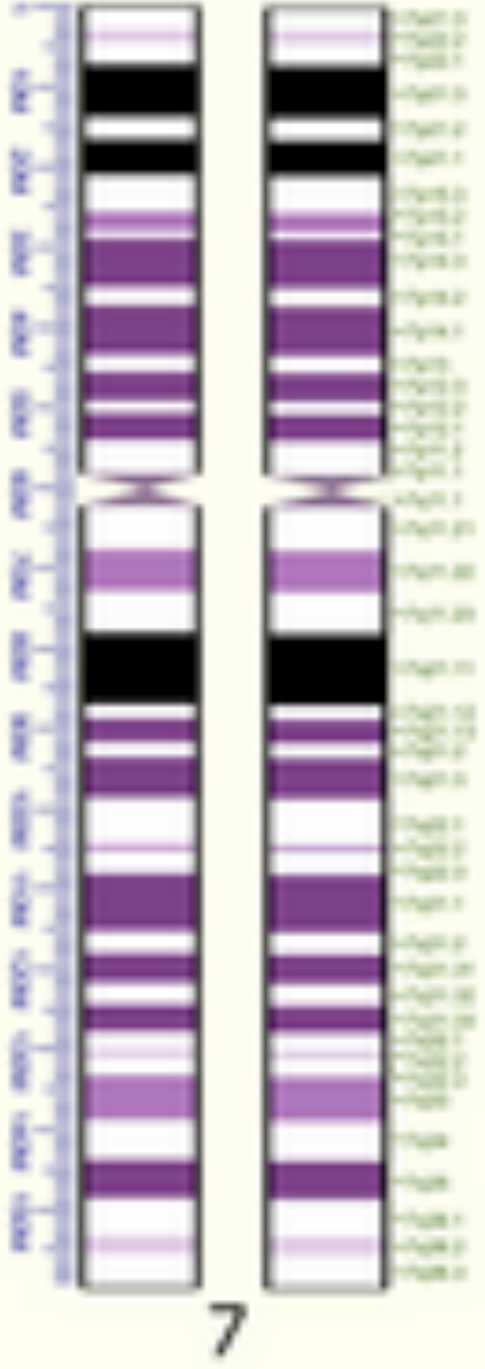
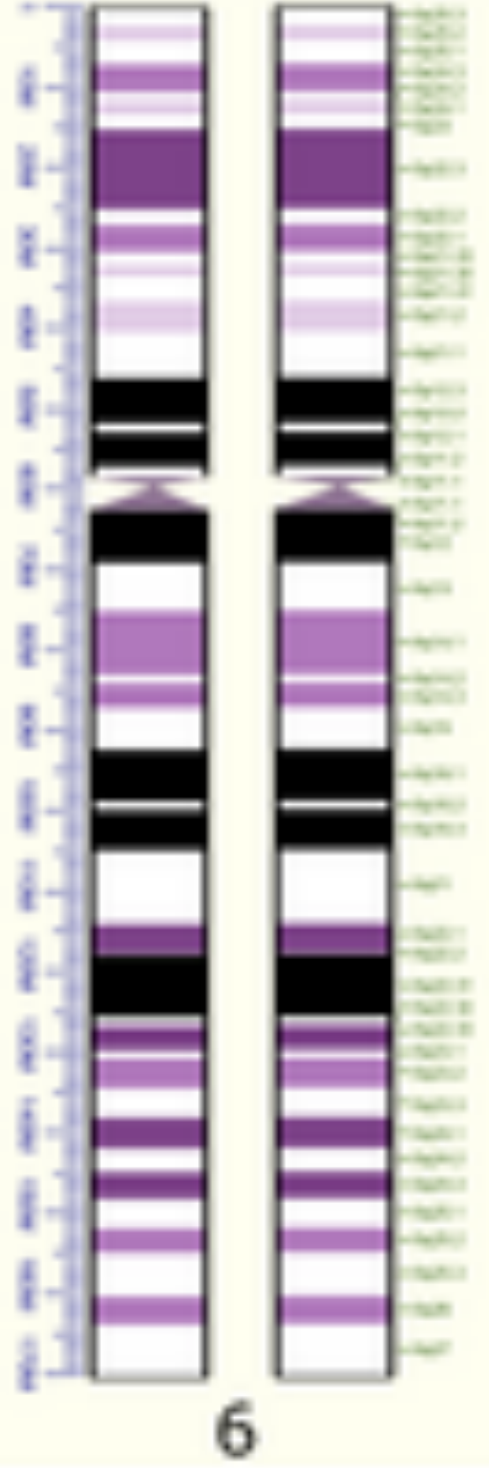
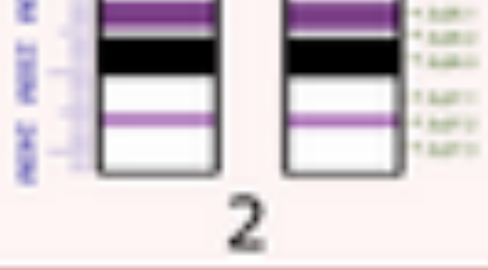
What Can You Do With CIS 1100?



Digital Humanities



Biology



Data Journalism

San Francisco

Sacramento

San Jose

Reno

Course Structure

Topics of Conversation

What is one thing that you are good at?

Topics of Conversation

How did you get good at that thing?

Guiding Principles

- Getting better at stuff requires PRACTICE.
 - To make sure that you are building your programming skills, we are trying to give you a lot of practice to make you better at programming.
 - This practice comes in several forms: check-ins, lecture activities, recitation, homework assignments
- In the next slides:
 - details about what we'll be asking you to do
 - rationale for why we think it's important

The Lecture Loop

- Before each lecture: videos & readings; check-in assignments
- During each lecture: recap, examples, & practice activities
- After each lecture: recitation & homework assignments

The Lecture Loop

Q: Why bother watching videos *outside* of class if you have to come to lecture three times a week anyway?

A: Without leaving all the teaching to yourselves, we want to get you prepped with some starter material **before** each class so that we can:

- tackle more interesting stuff during lecture
- give you time to ask questions and address your concerns
- get started on homework-level work during class

Valuing Your Time

Watching videos outside of class **does take your time outside of class!**

BUT! If you watch 30 minutes of videos outside of class each week, we can:

- address your questions at the start of each lecture
- work on problems during class that are commensurate with the homework difficulty

If we can do these things, we can actually **save time** by:

- Spending less time in OH and OH queues
- Spending less time debugging
- Spending less time confused about where to start with an assignment

Lecture

- Three times a week.
- Broken up into roughly 1/3rd each of recap, lecturing, and active working time
- You are expected to engage, ask questions, try out the activities, and practice *metacognition*.
- Attendance Policy:
 - No points for attendance
 - Each lecture attended with a completed worksheet earns 1/3rd of a Late Token.*
 - Recordings are available on Canvas

*More on this in a few minutes

Before Lecture

- Watch the assigned videos and/or read the associated lecture notes.
- Complete the pre-class assignment on Ed Lessons.
- Organize any questions you have about the material that you'd like to review at the start of the next lecture.

During Lecture

- Engage, ask questions, and be an active listener during the recap & lecturing portions.
- Work dilligently on the in-class activities
 - Be open to working with a partner for best effect
- At the end of lecture, hand in your worksheet to get marked as present.

Recitation

- These are **mandatory** weekly sessions
- **Format:** Review, group work, TA interaction.
- You must be registered for **one** section.
- Attendance & participation included in your final grade!

Assignment Types

You will be assessed in various ways outside of lecture and recitation.

Check-In Activities

- Combines recap from last class + comprehension check of new material.
- Short worksheets or small programming tasks.
- Complete them individually or in pairs.
- Submit and repeat as needed.
- Get guidance from TAs.
- Lowest five get dropped automatically.

Programming Projects (Homeworks)

- One- or two-week assignments.
- Apply course material to real programs.
- Must be done individually.
- Seek TA assistance for understanding and debugging.
- Challenging, may take 10-15 hours.

Homework Policies: Lateness

- At the start of the semester, you have a balance of **one Late Token**.
- Each Late Token allows up to 24 hours delay in submitting.
- When using Late Tokens, keep in mind:
 - You can use at most TWO per assignment.
 - You cannot use fractional parts of Late Tokens. That is, you must have one full Late Token to submit an assignment between one second and 24 hours late.
- No submissions after the deadline without the use of a Late Token. ✗
- Remember: attending & participating in one lecture grants 1/3rd of a Late Token

Homework Policies: Collaboration



- Homeworks must be completed individually.
 - We check this. There are consequences. Not fun.
 - (exception is for portions of HW assignments that we begin working on during lecture.)
- Internet (Google, StackOverflow, ChatGPT & LLMs) not acceptable.
 - reasonable to want some help, but these sources too easily give it all away
 - ask on Ed, during lecture, or in Office Hours if you need help

Why No AI??

We are skeptical of its usefulness in actual learning



- <https://www.aisnakeoil.com/p/chatgpt-is-a-bullshit-generator-but>
- <https://www.aisnakeoil.com/p/gpt-4-and-professional-benchmarks>

Will not help your overall grade and happiness:


- If you can't explain your code in OH, we can't help you
 - This is different than being confused on a bug or with Python, this is ok
- Everything we do here is foundational for ALL programmers. Why spend  and  on this course if you don't want to learn how to do the stuff in it?

We give a lot of help in the class, come get help if you need it.

Midterm Exams

- Two exams during the semester.
- Held in class:
 - March 4 & April 7
 - Mondays!
- Closed-book exams.  
- Together, they account for 12% of your final grade.
- Test your Python fluency under time constraints.

Final Exam

- Scheduled during the official finals period. 
- Worth 12% of your final grade.
- Similar to midterms, assesses Python fluency.
- Date and time will be announced soon.

Tips for Success

Other quick tips for success:

1. Start your assignments as soon as they're released to you.
2. Come to Office Hours all the time, even if you don't have a question.
3. If you ever need support, either academic or otherwise, don't hesitate to reach out.

TA Resources

Sunday Review Sessions

- Weekly on Sundays! Time TBD
- Useful for exam review, interactive small group work

Code Reviews

- One of these is mandatory in the first month of the course
- After that, you can sign up for them as needed!
- Great for 1:1 time with a TA

Online Resources

- Course Website: cis1100.com
 - hw assignments, schedule, recitation info, course policies
- Canvas
 - class recordings
- Gradescope (coming soon)
 - assignment submission & grading
- [Codio](#) (use course token `rebel-battery`)
 - writing code

REMINDERS

- Watch the videos for Jan 17th linked on the course website before class on Jan 17th
- Complete the check-in assignment on Ed Lessons before class on Jan 17th