

**B8154: Python for MBAs  
Spring 2024 (A-Term)****DAVID BENDES**

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Office Hours: Available upon request

**Course Description**

From the ads that track us to the maps that guide us, the twenty-first century runs on code. The business world is no different. Programming has become one of the fastest-growing topics at business schools around the world. This course is an introduction to business uses of Python for MBA students.

In this course, we'll be learning how to write Python code that automates tedious tasks, parses and analyzes large data sets, interact with APIs, and scrapes websites. This might be one of the most useful classes you ever take.

**Required Prerequisites**

Enrollment in this course requires completion of a Python qualification exam. For questions related to the qualification exam, please email [python@gsb.columbia.edu](mailto:python@gsb.columbia.edu).

**Required Course Material**

- Students must have a laptop that they can bring to class – Mac or PC is fine, as long as your operating system is up to date (at least Windows 11 and Mac OS 14).
- This course does not require a textbook. (Optional Reading: *Python for MBAs*, Griffel and Guetta)
- Any required readings will be provided via Canvas.
- Slides and files will be uploaded to Canvas after each class.

**Course Roadmap/Schedule**

Session	Topic	Assignments
<b>Class 1</b> Thursday, Jan 25	<b>Data Analysis, part 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dig Case</li></ul>	Read the Dig Case
<b>Class 2</b> Thursday, Feb 1	<b>Data Analysis, part 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dig Case</li></ul>	Assignment 1 due night before Class 3
<b>Class 3</b> Thursday, Feb 8	<b>Data Analysis, part 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dig Case</li></ul>	Assignment 2 due night before Class 4

<b>Class 4</b> Thursday, Feb 15	<b>APIs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FRED</li></ul>	Assignment 3 due night before Class 5  Read the BuiltWith Case
<b>Class 5</b> Thursday, Feb 22	<b>Web Scraping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>BuiltWith Case</li></ul>	Read the Bail Fund Case
<b>Class 6</b> Thursday, Feb 29	<b>Automation with Python</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bail Fund Case</li></ul>	Final Project Due midnight Wednesday, May 1

## Grading

Final grades in the class will be calculated as follows:

### *Participation (30%)*

- Students are expected to actively participate in class by posting solutions to challenges on a Slack group (an online messaging tool) for the course.

### *Assignments (40%)*

- There will be three homework assignments due the *night before* some classes.
- Each assignment should be completed individually.
- Late assignments will be accepted with a 20% penalty until the final class. No late assignments will be accepted after the final class.

### *Final Project (30%)*

- There will be a take-home final project.
- The final project must be completed individually.
- Note:** Completion of the final project will be necessary to receive a passing grade in the course.

## AI Policy

You may use AI tools, such as ChatGPT or Github Copilot, as part of your approach to generating solutions for your work in this course (just as any programmer would do), but any code submitted for in-class challenges and assignments must be your own.

This means that it is acceptable to use AI tools to help you understand and come up with a solution, but you must take the time to learn why any bit of code works and rewrite it on your own using style conventions we will learn in this class. Simply copying and pasting code generated by AI or found online is not acceptable (and it is often quite easy to tell).

Please contact me if you have any questions about this policy before submitting your work.