Item Frequency Report [Filter Results]

Python Programming - 2013-03-11 to 2013-03-15

1. Please check the box for each question that represents your opinion (1 to 5 where 5 is the highest rating):		Response Percent	Response Total
The presentation was informative.			
1		0%	0
2		0%	0
3		0%	0
4		8%	1
5		92%	12
	Total Responses	13	
The instructor was knowledgeable of the materials.			
1		0%	0
2		0%	0
3		0%	0
4		0%	0
5		100%	13
	Total Responses	13	
The instructor was effective in delivering the materials.			
1		0%	0
2		0%	0
3		0%	0
4		0%	0
5		100%	13
	Total Responses	13	
I will be able to use the skills learned in my current job.			
1		0%	0
2		0%	0
3		0%	0
4		15%	2
5		85%	11
	Total Responses	13	
2. The length of the class was:		Response Percent	Response Total
Too Short		15%	2
Just Right		77%	10

Too Long		8%	1
	Total Responses	**13**	

4. Would you recommend this class to others?		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes		**100%**	**13**
No		**0%**	**0**
	Total Responses	**13**	

3. How could the course be improved for future offerings?	
1.	More programming examples--it really helps to try out the concepts & constructs we've been learning in class. Also, it would be good to have more "bonus" follow-ons to programming exercises, for those who complete the tasks early.
2.	Will like to learn more about the python libraries that are available thus far.
3.	The pace was excellent, as was the content. I can't think of any obvious way to improve it.
4.	Focus on applications of information, rather than the information itself. Look at included libraries and popular third-party libraries.
5.	Should cover the latest Python3 instead of Python 2.7.
6.	More short exercise to (15 minutes) to reinforce the class materials. For example: see how the '*' and '**' unpack operator work, mutable vs immutable, List vs Tuples, etc.
7.	This class included an excellent level of detail. There are other modules I'd like to learn about, but I don't think there would have been time to include them. The pace of the class was brisk, and just right.
8.	What the course did best was to provide a highly interactive, hands-on introduction to the Python language and its idiosyncrasies. I enjoyed the exercises but I was able to complete the assignments significantly earlier than most other attendees, thanks to my background in C++ which made it easy for me to "get" many features of Python. As a result I found myself doing e-mail and other tasks while everyone else was completing the assignments. In hindsight it would make sense to have a Python class for people who already have a strong background in an object-oriented language such as Java and/or C++. I think such students generally have little trouble understanding the object-oriented features of Python, unlike the rest of the class. I would also have been interested in a second week of instruction devoted to two topics that matter a lot to me: client-servers (XmlRpc, restful protocols) and multi-threaded programming.
9.	For the basic materials like this class offers, the proper length is 2 or 3 days. For a class of the length 5 days, I would expect it to cover more materials that are arguably more 'advanced' for the remaining 2 or 3 days. For example, the class should have covered things like how to organize a realistic program with multiple modules, including some imported from 3rd party (e.g. open source packages like SciPy, NumPy, and the like) and some from built-in packages, how to set system path, how to compile, how to link to an external package that is not written in Python - these are all very useful and yet quite fundamental as far as I see them, though apparently viewed as more advanced by the teacher, perhaps because of his strong academic background.
10.	I could recommend a slight improvement in the area of visual aids: there were a number of times in which material that would have been nice to have on the screen had scrolled off. Perhaps the instructor could display a second window along with the primary display window.
11.	I have no suggestions as I was satisfied with how the course was taught.
12.	We only analyzed snippets of code in class to predict the output. Perhaps larger pieces of functional code that utilized multiple data structures would help the class see how things can all come together in a final product. This is more work of course, maybe it would need to be some kind of optional homework or something for a JPL class. To see how html POST/GET forms use the pack and unpack parameters would make a good example for just how useful that structure is.
	I believe that some sort of syntax primer or reference should have been made available. Though the exercises were of

| 13. | great utility in learning python, I felt that I was wasting too much time struggling with syntax during the exercises and, consequently, did not get as much out of the exercises as I otherwise would have. Such stumbling blocks should be proactively recognized and removed in order to increase the efficiency and efficacy of the course. |

5. General Comments:

1.	The instructor's style is highly interactive, engaging and energetic, and keeps the class involved. I'm hoping that JPL will bring this instructor back for a follow-on advanced Python course.
2.	This class is very intensive and informative. The instructor has his unique way of teaching which made us students have to focus 100% during the class. In-class exercises are very helpful for students to practice the skills learned.
3.	Very enjoyable and educational.
4.	This class was very informative. I have a great understanding of the inner workings of Python now.
5.	The class was excellent. It was by far the best class I have ever taken. I learned a lot from the class. The material used in class was very well prepared and organized. The material presented was very clear and informative. The examples demonstrated the points very clearly. Professor Downing was energetic and kept everyone fully engaged. This highly interactive class helped me concentrate and understand the material effectively. There was sufficient time in class to practice what we learned and to ask questions. I just wish I had professors like Glenn when I was in college.
6.	I really learned a lot from this class. Glenn's teaching style is very different from other instructors, in a positive way. I was always engaged and actively participated in his discussion and through the participation, I absorbed so much material compare to other programming classes I took in the past. I really like how Glenn taught us how to think deep in Python, not just presented the syntax. Thank You Glenn.
7.	I really appreciated having an instructor who could explain exactly why Python does what it does. And, who could speak the language known by anyone in the room to contrast Python against a language they know better.
8.	I really think the instructor's approach to teaching is excellent, and better than most for a one-week class of this type. He is very good at keeping everyone involved, which is extremely difficult to do in our age of smart phones and laptops. When diving deep into "Pythonisms" he occasionally had to admit that he did not know the answer. He did this with complete candor and it was obvious that he didn't mind - like Gandhi, he clearly believes that a good teacher gets more out of the class than his students... This contributes to his effectiveness as a teacher: he was totally honest with us, and that is very refreshing.
9.	Other than the comments I made in #3, I am quite happy with what I learned from the teacher.
10.	This was the best course of this type that I have ever had. Mr. (Dr. ?) Downing was extraordinary.
11.	This was a very good class. It was exactly the introduction to Python that I was hoping for. I really appreciated the focus on how python can behave differently than most other languages, which will help us with preconceived notions we might have.
12.	This was a terrific class, and I am glad that I took the time to take it! Dr. Downing is a very capable instructor. And I would not necessarily recommend this class as highly were some other instructor to teach it. Dr. Downing was approachable, enthusiastic and very engaging. At first I resented his insistence on turning off our phones and laptops. And I did not like the idea of being called upon, as though I were a student in high school. However, it quickly became clear that these strategies were intended to keep us focused and were very effective at doing so ... even though it has been many years since I have seen the inside of a college classroom, let alone a high school one.