#1: Introduction

Reading: Chapter 1
Course Organization

• Web page:
  http://www.mathcs.emory.edu/~cs130r00/

• Syllabus
Installing Python

• See Setup Guide

• Work in the lab in Linux Ubuntu (see next week!)
Python

• What is programming? What is a (computer) program?
Program = a set of instructions and commands for the computer to know what to do (transform input to output)

Python is a simple and powerful programming language. Includes commands with precise syntax.
Python

• developed by Guido van Rossum in the Netherlands in the late 1980s.

• takes its name from the British comedy series *Monty Python's Flying Circus*.

http://www.cs.utexas.edu/~mitra/bytes/python_intro.html
Why Python?

- Simple, powerful, fast.
- Clean, easy, concise syntax.
- Design is compact.
- Powerful library of useful functions.
- It is portable – runs & communicates with others Windows, Linux/Unix, OS/2, Mac
- Interpretable language.
- Free, open source.
- etc.
Running Python interactively

• In Linux command line type:
  >python [hit enter]
  >>>print "Hello World!"
  Hello World!
  >>>2*3+8
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• Exit Python with CTRL+D
• Not good for programs longer than 2-3 lines
Your First Python Program

1. Open a **text** editor – good Notepad, Gedit, ... Do not use Word editors!
2. Type in the editor:

```
#my first program
print("Hello Python!")
```
3. Save file under name hello.py
4. At the command line in Linux type (call Python to interpret and run your code):

```
>python hello.py
```
Hello Python!
Next lecture...

• Errors
• Types and Variables
• Assignment & homework submission