

**Subject:** homework assignments before the class begins?

**From:** Joseph Picone <joseph.picone@gmail.com>

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**To:** temple\_engineering\_ece1111 <temple\_engineering\_ece1111@googlegroups.com>

Of course... that is what makes my classes so special 😊

and I was wondering if these assignments will be open all summer?

Yes. As I stated in the first message, you have until the first day of class to complete these (Aug. 26). However, read below for why these assignments exist and why it is important not to wait until the last minute.

As I'm currently taking a class that's occupying most time right now. I plan to start on all the homework assignments when that class is done. Is that okay?

That would be perfect.

The point of these homework assignments are to encourage you to take responsibility for your professional development. What I am asking you to do are things, in theory, you have already done, like understand your concentration and create a LinkedIn page.

Tending to your professional development is an ongoing process and something you should work on every summer. Some of you have taken introductory classes in which these things have already been covered. So these things should be a work in progress.

With regard to the programming assignments, the first four weeks of this class are intense as you have to learn the Linux operating system, a text editor emacs, and the Python programming language... as well as how to actually program. It takes time for these concepts to sink in. We used to lose 25% of the students in the first four weeks because they aren't used to what I would call a normal college class - lectures, labs, quizzes and homework every week.

Therefore, it is better to get some of the basics out of the way before the semester begins. Otherwise, you will be extremely stressed the first 6 weeks. Fortunately, for those who survive, things kick in around the 6-week point, and everything starts to make sense.

I have been learning these concepts for 40+ years, and I still learning something every time I teach this class. That is why I enjoy teaching this class.

Now, the sad thing is, only about half the class will have read this message. If you have read this far, send me an email telling me how your weekend is going. That will make a good impression on me!

-Joe