

artd299-jg

Introduction to web development and design using CSS and XHTML. This course will provide you with the confidence to explore and manifest conceptual ideas on the web.

COURSE MEETING TIMES

M T W Th, 9am - 11:40am & 1pm - 3:40pm

BOOK

HTML Utopia: Designing without Tables Using CSS

by Rachel Andrew & Dan Shafer

You are required to bring this book to class daily.

COURSE WEBSITES

www.jessicamullen.com/css

course website

del.icio.us/css_uiuc

social bookmarking

login: `css_uiuc`

password: `p1nn1p3d`

always include your name in the tags

QUICK LINKS

validator.w3.org – *validate your xhtml*

jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator – *validate your css*

tacosw.com – *free mac code editor*

www.crimsoneditor.com – *free pc code editor*

cyberduck.ch – *free mac ftp client*

www.smartftp.com – *free pc ftp client*

www.w3.org – *internet standards*

alistapart.com – *for people who make websites*

Introduction

YOU + CSS = <3

Knowing how to make a website can get you a job, but knowing how to make a well designed, beautifully coded website will make the internet a better place. This class will teach the fundamentals of designing, coding, uploading and testing a website using Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and Extensible HyperText Markup Language (XHTML).

Course Schedule

★ WEEK ONE: MAY 14 - 18

Tools we will use: del.icio.us social bookmarking, course website, code editors, Photoshop, FTP, Macs and PCs, Firefox webdev plugin

What/Why CSS? separation of design from content, accessibility, inheritance, why tables are the devil

Web authoring basics: FTP, webhosting, file hierarchy, naming conventions, Mac vs. PC

Creating files: structure of CSS file, XHTML file, making them work together, PSD layout setup, information architecture

CSS basics: Parts of a CSS rule: selectors and declarations, measurement units, commenting code, code validation, browser compatibility issues

CSS styling basics: colors, images, background images, fonts, text effects, links, lists

Class assignments: complete daily reading and in-class assignments. Post required sites to del.icio.us. Begin redesign of neuroscience website. Create assorted XHTML and CSS files and FTP to webspace. Neuroscience PSD layout due Thursday for an in-class critique.

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GRADING POLICY

Class time will be spent on lectures, working on and critiquing projects, and on daily assignments and discussions. Timely completion of projects and assignments is required. Late work will not be accepted for any reason. Each of the following areas will be considered in your final grade:

design process (research, conceptual sketches, PSD production, etc)

project grades (design and coding) for 2 projects, including redesign/building of Neuroscience website and final website project

participation in discussions & critiques

completion of daily assignments

attendance

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken separately for morning and afternoon sessions. After three absences, your final grade will be dropped by 10 percent. Upon subsequent absences, your final grade will continue to drop by 10 percent. You are expected to be punctual, to come to class prepared, and to remain in class for the entire class period. If you are tardy more than 3 times, you will incur an absence on your record.

Please note that you are required to attend all afternoon and lab-time class sessions.

Course Schedule

★ WEEK TWO: MAY 21 - 25

Site layout: process of breaking a PSD into manageable blocks, basic layout elements and how to define them

Positioning elements with CSS: absolute, relative, fixed and static positioning

The box model: what it is and how to make it work right, margins, padding, borders

Floating elements: making everything look more complicated

Mac and PC testing: the hardest part: making it look right in (almost) every browser

Class assignments: complete daily reading and in-class assignments. Post required sites to del.icio.us. Create assorted XHTML and CSS files and FTP to webspace. Create basic layouts, test on Mac and PC. Begin coding neuroscience site. Introduction to final project.

★ WEEK THREE: MAY 28 - JUNE 1

Javascript and Flash: appropriate use and implementation

Debugging: the joys of finding where you went wrong

Tools to help you figure out what you're doing wrong: forums, validators, Dreamweaver, screenshot services

Browser hacks: when and how to use them sparingly and how they affect validation

More Mac and PC testing: you can't hide from it

Advanced layout: three column layouts, when to use tables, the awesomeness of lists, styling forms

Class assignments: complete daily reading and in-class assignments. Post required sites to del.icio.us. Use Javascript and embed Flash. Validate your CSS and XHTML and fix your errors. Neuroscience project final critique Thursday. Continue work on final project. Interim crit TBA.

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FURTHER READING

creativecommons.org/about
the future of copyright

www.nypl.org/styleguide/xhtml/guidelines.html
how to really use xhtml

www.cbel.com/style_sheets
over 200 css resources

www.westciv.com/news/podguide.html
css guide for your ipod

www.csszengarden.com
fabulous css resource

www.cssbeauty.com
css site database

webtypography.net/toc
the elements of typographic style—applied to the web!

www.alistapart.com/articles/accessibilityseo
high accessibility is effective search engine optimization

www.cameronolthuis.com/2006/01/75-helpful-web-design-resources/
some dude's helpful list of web design resources

Course Schedule

★ WEEK FOUR: JUNE 4 - 8

Even more Mac and PC testing: because it's not always easy
Alternate and print stylesheets: use a different style sheet for printing and save a lot of ink, try to design for the mini-internet on PDAs

Tricking out your site the standards-compliant way: special effects like drop shadows and rounded corners

Search engine optimization (SEO): what it is, how freakin easy it is, how important it is

Server side scripting: if you want to get your hands super dirty, use a little PHP

Content management systems (CMS): why you should get on top of this shit right now, a little bit of how to do it

Shopping carts: brief intro on how to inflict more pain on yourself with such free and abundant tools

Class assignments: complete daily reading and in-class assignments. Post required sites to del.icio.us. Create a functioning print style sheet. Try out some PHP or CMS. Final project critique last day of class.

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