

COSC 115A: Introduction to Web Authoring  
Wofford College, Fall 2008

**Instructor:** Dr. Joseph D. Sloan, 216D Olin Building

**Email:** My email address is [sloanjd@wofford.edu](mailto:sloanjd@wofford.edu). I check this repeatedly throughout the day and as well as from home. Apart from coming by my office, this is the best way to contact me.

**Office Phone:** 597-4529 Be warned, I rarely check my voice mail.

**Office hours:** You are welcome to just drop by. I come in early and I'm generally here until early-afternoon. But I will make a particular effort to be here:

8:20-9:20 & 10:30-12:00 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays,  
9:30-11:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays, and,  
By appointment.

**Class Schedule:** 1:00-2:20 Tuesday and Thursday in 212 Olin Building

**Final Examinations:** Friday, December 12, 2:00-5:00

**COSC 115: Introduction to Web Authoring.** An introduction to effective communications using Web technology. No programming background is required. The course focuses on the technology and tools, including XHTML, CSS, and JavaScript, that facilitate the construction of interesting and effective Web sites. (3/0/3) SYKES — *Wofford College 2007-2009 Catalogue*.

**Course Goals and Objectives:** In general, you will develop the basic skills need to create a simple but professional-looking web site. These skills include:

- Organize a web site
- Using HTML and XHTML to create web pages
- Using cascading style sheets to control the appearance of a web site
- Understanding and applying the basics of graphic design that are applicable to web sites
- Creating web pages that are more accessible
- Testing and evaluating web pages
- Using JavaScript to add dynamic features to web pages

While we will discuss issues related to advanced topics such as secure e-commerce, web sever management, high-performance web servers, and server side programming, we will not go into any of these topics in detail.

The instructional format is mixture of lectures, discussions, and lab work. Testing and coding assignments will be used to insure the class goals are met.

**Texts and Supplies:** Texts for the class are

*[Head First HTML with CSS & XHTML](#)* by Elisabeth Freeman and Eric Freeman. O'Reilly Media, Inc., 2005. ISBN 0-596-10197-X

*[JavaScript Pocket Reference, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#)* by David Flanagan. O'Reilly Media Inc., 2003. ISBN 0-596-00411-7

Although you are unlikely to need one, a calculator may be used during testing subject to the following constraints—1. the memory of the calculator must be cleared at the start of the test, 2. no sharing of calculators is allowed, and, 3. manuals or directions for your calculator are not allowed. In practice, you will find relatively few uses for calculators in this course and can probably get by without one. Computers or PDAs may not be used during testing in this class unless otherwise specified.

**Course Web Site:** There are many different web sites you will want to visit throughout this course. As the course progresses, a web page of links will be created that will be accessible from the course web site <http://webs.wofford.edu/sloanjd/fall08/cosc115/index.html>. The course web page will be developed and updated as the semester progresses. You should check this site regularly for schedule information, etc. The web pages for each of the books are <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596101978/> and <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596004118/>. Be sure to get a copy of the errata for each book. You can also download the source code for the HTML book. Finally, the Computer Science Department's web site also has links you may find helpful, [http://dept.wofford.edu/computer\\_science/](http://dept.wofford.edu/computer_science/).

**Grading and Course Schedule:** The course will include the following components:

There will be five or six short quizzes during the semester at the rate of one every four to six classes. Typically, these will take only a part of a class. You will be given at least one week advance notice for any quizzes. Collectively, these will count 30% of your course grade.

There will be a cumulative final examination that will count 10% of your course grade.

There will be routine homework and in-class projects that will collectively count 25% of your grade. Some assignments may count more than others, but this will be announced in advance.

The remaining 35% of your grade will come from a semester long project. You will be creating a complete web site on a topic of your choice. As the semester progresses, we will develop detailed requirements for your web site and grading will be clarified.

A detailed schedule will be developed as the semester progresses and posted on the course web site. This will be updated on a regular basis throughout the semester. As noted above, you are responsible for checking this web site on a regular basis.

**Grade scale:** At a minimum, grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Final Course Average	Letter Grade
93–100	A
90–92	A <sup>-</sup>
87–89	B <sup>+</sup>
83–86	B
80–82	B <sup>-</sup>
77–79	C <sup>+</sup>
73–76	C
70–72	C <sup>-</sup>
60–69	D
0–59	F

**Late Work:** Work not submitted by the due date will receive a grade of zero. If you have a legitimate reason for not submitting an assignment (e.g., illness) you may submit the assignment within one week of the due date (negotiable) along with a written explanation of why the work was late. If, in my judgment you have a valid reason for the late submission, I will either grade the work, grade the work with penalty, or exempt you from that assignment. If in doubt, contact me.

**General Policies:** Please read the Student Handbook!

Wofford's attendance policy is described in the Student Handbook. This course will enforce those policies. In particular, daily attendance will be taken! Arriving for class after the role has been taken or leaving class early will normally be considered an absence. While I tend to be fairly forgiving for excused absences, it is your responsibility to justify absence upon returning to class if you want me to consider excusing the absence. Ultimately, I reserve the right to decide which absences are excused. No unexcused absences are permitted for this class. Typically, the second unexcused absence will result in a formal warning and a third unexcused may result in a failing grade for the course.

Lectures in this class will expand and augment the material in the text. You will be responsible for all material covered in class including material that is not in the text or assigned readings! *If you have not read the assigned reading prior to class, you forfeit the privilege to ask any questions during that class!*

Work will only be returned to you; no one may pick up graded work for someone else. If you fail a test, you should come by to see me as soon as possible. Use of a recording device such as a tape recorder requires prior approval. Please *turn-off* and *put-away* all pagers and cell phones before the start of class. While we will be meeting in a computer laboratory, you should only be using these computers as directed. Please do not play games, check your email, etc. during class.

*It is an expectation of the class (and the College) that you will check your Wofford email account on a daily basis.* I will occasionally use this to warn you of schedule changes or to provide additional advice on programs or homework assignments.

Visit <http://www.wofford.edu/uploadedFiles/studentlife/0708honorCode.pdf> to view Wofford's Honor Code. Keep in mind that some of your CS assignments may be collaborative. What might be an Honor Code infraction in one instance may not be in another. There is a general document describing collaboration and the Honor Code on the departmental web site at [http://dept.wofford.edu/computer\\_science/Honor%20Code%20%20CS.pdf](http://dept.wofford.edu/computer_science/Honor%20Code%20%20CS.pdf). If in doubt about what is appropriate for a particular assignment, be sure to contact me for clarification. Also, please keep in mind, anyone assisting someone in a dishonest act (such as allowing your work to be copied) will also be considered culpable.

Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities will be made. However, requests must come through Dean Beth Wallace, Hugh R. Black Infirmary (597-4371). If you need accommodations or have questions, please contact her as soon as possible. *You must arrange accommodations during the first week of class.*

If you are in doubt about any of the above, please see me immediately. Please note, syllabi are subject to change upon notice.