COSC 115A: Introduction to Web Authoring • Fall 2014

Instructor: David. A. Sykes

Class meetings: TR 1:00-2:20PM in Daniel Building, Room 102

Office / Hours: Olin 204E / TR 8:00-10:45AM, MWF 9:00–10:20AM, or by appointment/happenstance

Telephone / Email: (864) 597-4524 / sykesda@wofford.edu

Class home page: webs.wofford.edu/sykesda/2014/09/cosc115/

Course Description
An introduction to effective communications using Web technology. No programming background is required. This course focuses on the technologies and tools to construct interesting and effective Websites, including HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Prerequisites: None.

Course Goals
After completing this course successfully, you will:

1. Be able to create web pages using HTML5 and CSS3.
2. Be able to create sitemaps and organize files on a Web server and map each file to a URL (relative or absolute).
3. Know how to edit images for use on a web page.
4. Be able to create wireframes to design a web page.
5. Be able to incorporate behaviors into web pages using jQueryUI.
6. Be able to utilize Web development tools, including the W3C Markup Validator, W3C CSS Validator, and FireBug to troubleshoot problems with web pages.
7. Be able to create a simple responsive web page using Twitter Bootstrap.
8. Be able to create a Website using a content management system, WordPress, and understand the concept of a administrating a content management system.

Assessment

Your final grade is based on a weighted average of your scores on tests and programming projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can see your grades as they are recorded in Moodle. Note: The cumulative grade shown in Moodle might not reflect your final grade accurately because I Moodle gradebooks have so many options that I have trouble getting everything set up correctly. If you note a problem with the way your score is calculated by Moodle, please let me know and I will do my best to correct it. I will use a spreadsheet to make sure final scores are computed properly.

Tests
You will take three tests during the semester to assess your understanding of the topics we cover. Each test will cover a major topic covered in this course [since the schedule is tentative, concepts listed below might change]:

**Test 1**: HTML5, URLs, Website file organization, site maps, and site navigation.

**Test 2**: Web page presentation (design and layout) using HTML5, CSS3, jQueryUI, and Twitter Bootstrap.

**Test 3**: WordPress concepts (including pages, posts, and themes) and using WordPress as a content management system.

*Tentative* test weeks are shown on the schedule. A test could be moved up a week or slipped a week depending on how quickly we get through the topics.

If you have a schedule conflict with a test, *contact me ahead of time to find a way to work around the conflict* so you can still take the test.

Cell phones, calculators, and other resources must be put away during tests. *You must be present during the final exam scheduled for 9:00AM-Noon on Wednesday, December 10.*

Quizzes
Quizzes are designed to help you (and me) assess how well you are learning as well as to encourage you to keep up with reading assignments and homework. A class meeting might start with a short [pop] quiz. Quizzes are usually short and take no more than 10 minutes.

Unless notified in advance otherwise, you may use notes written on index cards during a quiz. Make-up quizzes are not available. A missed quiz is assigned a score of zero. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped in computing your final grade.

Homework
You will usually be assigned homework to be completed in preparation for the next class meeting. Homework assignments will be posted at Piazza. Homework is not graded, but you must
complete it to prepare for class. What is covered in a homework assignment might appear on a pop quiz the day the homework is due.

Projects

Projects are designed to give you experience working with what we are covering in class. Projects will become progressively more challenging. Each project incorporates new topics as well as ones covered previously. The point value for a project will be proportional to the level of challenge. To get a high score on a project, your submission must satisfy all of the requirements set forth in the specification. It is important that you read through the requirements carefully and make sure your work addresses them all. A rubric might be available in Moodle.

You will submit some projects in Moodle. You will submit others by putting files on a Web server to which I have access. If Moodle is unavailable or the Web server is unavailable when a project is due, then submit your project as soon as you can. Such submissions will not be considered to be late.

Technology Skills

You must be able to use a computer operating under Windows, Mac OS X, or Linux. You must be able to use a Web browser and some other computer applications. All of the applications we will use is open source and can be installed on your computer. It is also available on the computers in Olin 207. We will use Piazza for Q&A and to distribute handouts. We will use Moodle to submit code and to track scores for tests and for programming projects.

We will use three websites this semester. That might be confusing at first, but the sites provide different capabilities that I think we want to make good use of:

1. Course home page [webs.wofford.edu/sykesda/2014/09/cosc115/] that contains general information about the course, including a link to the syllabus, as well as descriptions of each project.

2. Piazza [https://piazza.com/wofford/fall2014/cosc115/home] that holds homework assignments, handouts, and discussions about class topics. Explore the Q & A and the Course Page tabs.

3. Moodle [moodle2.wofford.edu/moodle/course/view.php?id=3196] that contains links to forms that allow you to submit your work and others that let you see your grades. Moodle will also hold handouts that are restricted to use by members of the class.

Required Textbook, Web Hosting Service, and Website Accounts

- You will need an account on a Web hosting service that can support WordPress and FTP. To fully understand how to build and maintain a website, you need to use the tools a
Webmaster uses. Consequently, you will need to have access to a Web hosting service starting around November 1.

Note that most Web hosts charge a fee. The textbook has a list price of $29.99, which is low for a book. A two-month subscription to a Web hosting service should not cost more than $20. We’ll discuss options in class.

• In order to complete some assignments, you will be required to have an account at various Websites that provide Web-based tools, including Piazza and WriteMaps. Usage of these sites is free once an account is created.

Organization

The course develops through a series of projects. The early projects are short and intended to give you practice working with HTML and CSS. Once we have covered the basics, you will learn how to incorporate jQueryUI components into web pages and to build a responsive page using Twitter Bootstrap. After that, we will investigate WordPress and you will use it to work on a small Website. You will start work on some projects in class—a good reason not to miss a class.

We will focus first on web page content and structure:
• How the Web is structured,
• HTML5 elements,
• Conventional ways to organize files on a Web server,
• How to process images for use on the Web,
• Site maps, and
• Site navigation.

Next we will turn our focus to web page presentation:
• Styling web pages using CSS3,
• Animations using CSS3,
• Animations using jQueryUI, and
• Responsive design using Twitter Bootstrap.

Finally, we will investigate:
• Content management systems and
• Using WordPress to develop a Website using WordPress.

A typical class meeting might start with a quiz or a presentation, but most of the time class will involve activities that apply concepts that have been covered so far and/or concepts used in an assignment for that day. Bring a laptop computer to class if you have one. I will often work on a computer with things introduced that day. You might like to work along with me.

Any code we develop together in class will be available for download via Piazza after class. Handouts distributed in class will also be available for download via Piazza.
Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend class meetings and to be prepared for a class by having completed any readings, homework, or take-home quiz assigned for that class. We won’t cover in class every topic in the book and we will cover topics in class that are not in the book. Refer to the General Policy Regarding Attendance in the Wofford College Student Handbook. The policy makes you responsible for catching up on missed classes. Find a buddy or two to take notes for you. I appreciate an email message or phone call letting me know in advance you will be absent.

Tardiness

Please arrive to class meetings on time. However, arriving late is preferable to missing class. If a quiz or a test is in progress when you arrive, your work must be submitted at the same time as others who arrived on time.

Late Work

You are expected to keep up with assignments and complete them on time. Extra credit is not available to compensate for missed assignments.

Make-up tests are not available. If you miss taking a test, then you must take the corresponding part of the final and the score on that part will be used.

A project must be submitted by the due date to earn a maximum score unless there are extenuating circumstances. Projects may not be submitted over 48 hours past the due date. The score for a project submitted up to 24 hours late will be decreased by 10%. The score for a project submitted between 24 and 48 hours late will be decreased by 25%. A score of zero will be assigned for projects not submitted or submitted over 48 hours late.

Email

Please use email only for private matters. All questions about assignments should be posted at Piazza. Code for projects must be submitted using Moodle.

Academic Dishonesty

The Honor Code requires faculty, staff, and students to maintain a high standard of individual honor and integrity. Work represented as your own must be your own.

How does the Honor Code apply to coding web pages? Coding a web page is analogous to writing an essay in that you are creating an original work. Two writers might have the same ideas to express in an essay, but they are unlikely to express those ideas in exactly the same way—that is, using the same words, sentence structure, or development. Similarly, two Web authors are unlikely to write exactly the same code for a web page, even though the pages they create look exactly the same in a browser. Two students in this course should not produce identical code for a web page after the first few weeks of this course.

You must do your own work for tests, quizzes (including take-home quizzes), and projects. However, collaboration with others on projects is sometimes necessary and beneficial. For this course,
collaborating with others along the following guidelines is permitted and not considered a violation of the Honor Code:

- You may collaborate with others to develop the design for a web page, but not to write code (HTML, CSS, or JavaScript) for a page.
- You may not copy code from another student. You may not allow another student to copy your code. Copying another person's code with minor modifications to it in an attempt to obfuscate the original is a breach of academic integrity.
- You may work with others to debug code. They may help you and you may help them, but the author of the code must maintain control of the mouse and keyboard and is responsible for understanding why any changes to the code fix the bugs. If you get significant help from someone, acknowledge the help in HTML and CSS comments.

You will be encouraged to pair code some projects. When pair coding, you and your partner comprise an individual with respect to The Honor Code. However, you are required to work on the project only when your partner is working actively with you.

I encourage you to work with other students on homework exercises and to collaborate as necessary to debug code. To learn these technologies well, you must complete every project fully. Please contact me for help, especially if you are struggling with homework or projects. We might be able to find additional resources that will help you.

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that requires assistance or accommodation, or if you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please contact Dean Beth Wallace by telephone at (864) 597-4371 or in person by visiting the Hugh R. Black Infirmary. You must arrange accommodations during the first week of classes.

**Tentative Schedule by Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday Class</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>02 SEP</strong></td>
<td>WWW overview, HTML basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>09 SEP</strong></td>
<td>File organization on a server and URLs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Text, links, and images</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site navigation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>16 SEP</strong></td>
<td>Tables and forms</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flash and video</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>23 SEP</strong></td>
<td>Additional HTML5 elements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSS basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30 SEP</strong></td>
<td>Test #1 [Duckett Chapters 1-9+]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Color, text, and boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>07 OCT</strong></td>
<td>Lists and tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14 OCT</strong></td>
<td>Forms, images, and page layout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday Class</td>
<td>Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSS animations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>21 OCT</strong></td>
<td>HTML 5, JavaScript, and jQuery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Twitter Bootstrap</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>28 OCT</strong></td>
<td>Twitter Bootstrap and one-page websites</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Test #2 [Duckett Chapters 10-17]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>04 NOV</strong></td>
<td>WordPress Basics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WordPress administration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pages and posts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11 NOV</strong></td>
<td>WordPress themes, extensions and widgets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18 NOV</strong></td>
<td>Project issues</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>25 NOV</strong></td>
<td>WordPress themes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>02 DEC</strong></td>
<td>Test #3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10 DEC (Wednesday)</strong></td>
<td>Final project presentations (~7 minutes each)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:00AM-Noon</strong></td>
<td>You must be present for all presentations.</td>
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