Z532 – Information Architecture for the Web (Fall 2015)

What's the course about?

This course is organized around a set of learning objectives. By the end of the course, we expect that students will be able to:

- Create organized, attractive, and accessible websites
- Recognize the roles of various web technologies in the web development process
- Interpret and deliver upon client website requirements
- Establish content structure and styling using HTML and CSS
- Create dynamic interactions using JavaScript and Node.js
- Read and write basic project documents

Each class session will be divided into two sections. The first half will be lecture-based, and I'll discuss the basic principles and concepts associated with the weekly topic. There will be a 15-minute break, and the second half will involve a lab assignment that has the students implement the skills discussed during the lecture for practical, hands-on experience. I will be available throughout the lab to address any issues and answer any questions.

Textbooks

- Information Architecture for the World Wide Web (2006), Peter Morville and Louis Rosenfeld, 3rd Ed.
- Beginning HTML and CSS (2013), Rob Larsen (available [here](https://example.com)).
- HTML5 Foundations, Matt West (available [here](https://example.com)).
- CSS3 Foundations, Ian Lunn (available [here](https://example.com)).
- Beginning Node.js, Basarat Ali Syed (available [here](https://example.com)).

Readings and Homework

To see a list of recommended (non-required) readings and exercises to do after each session, see the [Readings and Homework page](https://example.com).

Online Resources

A list of resources including many tutorials and other useful links is available on the [Online Resources page](https://example.com).

Assignments

There are three kinds of assignments for this class:

- **Lab Assignments (Usually Not Graded)** are small assignments that will be conducted in class during the lab session following every lecture. They are meant to be a test of that lecture's content. These assignments should ideally be completed during the lab session. These are not mandatory but are highly recommended.
• **Skill Competency Assignments (Graded)** are meant to be a demonstration of a student's accumulated knowledge after several lectures covering a particular web development technology such as HTML or CSS. The details of the HTML competency assignment will be discussed on Sep 7 and the assignment will be due on Sep 21. The details of the CSS competency assignment will be discussed on Sep 28 and the assignment will be due on Oct 19. Each competency assignment will be worth 25 points, and the two competency assignments will together count for 40% of your final grade.

• **Project Assignments (Graded)**
  1. are the individual components in a semester-long assignment that will culminate in the student creating a website. This is the most important part of the class and students will be expected to be working on the final project in some capacity throughout the duration of the entire semester. There are three important decisions you will have to make regarding this project at the beginning of the semester. The earlier you make these decisions, the better.
    2. Web development almost always is a group effort. We would like you to become familiar and comfortable with the process of project management and task distribution in this class. You are asked to make a group of 3 individuals; this group will work together throughout the whole semester towards the final goal of creating a website. **You are strongly encouraged to form groups with people you are not acquainted with, and form groups that have a broad skill set.**
    3. You have the option of creating a website with an actual client or a fictional client. Working with an actual client will provide you with the opportunity to get hands on experience with a vital aspect of web development. Groups choosing to work with real-world clients will have higher expectations (for example, the expectation to meet with and speak with your client regularly), but will be graded more leniently and have more flexible deadlines. Groups choosing to work with fictional clients may not have to do as much as groups working with real clients (e.g. no meetings to attend) but grading will be tougher and deadlines will be strictly enforced.
    4. You will have the option of redesigning a website, or building a website from scratch. For those of you working with real world clients, this will depend on whether or not your client already has a website. For those of you working with "fictional" clients, you have two options: find an existing website and choose to rebuild it without working with the actual people behind the site, or build a website from scratch. Note, all of these decisions are contingent on instructor approval.

The final project has four submissions that are spread throughout the semester.

  1. **Project Brief (15 points)**
     - a 500-word essay describing your "client", his or her organization, and the reason you are interested in designing for this specific client. For those of you with actual clients, you'll get this information by talking to them. For those working with fictional clients, you'll have to think hard on how this organization works and what kind of information needs it has.
  2. **Requirements Analysis (15 points)**
     - a 500-word essay describing your analysis of the organization and its context, and how these can be taken into consideration during the design of the site.
     - personas for each type of potential user for the final site
  3. **Solution Definition (20 points)**
     - A description of the site's structure and pages
     - Page-level diagrams for each different layout of the site
- Site-level diagram showing how the content is organized into webpages
  - Final Project Submission (50 points)
    - A link to the final website, or a zip file containing the website if it is not hosted online

The final projects will count as 60% of your final grade.

Please note that the syllabus is subject to change. Students in this class often come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experience, and as such, we reserve the right to change the content of the course to accommodate the needs and expectations of the students.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students will be expected to uphold and maintain academic and professional honesty and integrity as outlined in the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (Links to an external site.). Cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to the student disciplinary procedures described here (Links to an external site.).

Statement for Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact IU Disability Services for Students (Links to an external site.).

If you have any other questions, feel free to email me and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

My Contact Info

- Ali Ghazinejad
- Office hours by appointment
- Email: alighazi@indiana.edu

Class Time/Place:

- Mondays, 4:00 to 06:45pm, LI002 (Information and Library Science)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue Aug 25, 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>Week 01 - Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Sep 1, 2015</td>
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<td>Week 02 - HTML Part 01</td>
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<td>Tue Sep 8, 2015</td>
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<td>Week 03 - HTML Part 2</td>
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<td>Tue Sep 15, 2015</td>
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<td>Week 04 - Information Architecture</td>
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<td>Project Brief</td>
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Tue Sep 22, 2015  Week 05 - Accessibility Lecture & CSS Part 01a
Tue Sep 29, 2015  Week 06 - CSS Part 01b
               HTML Competency
Tue Oct  6, 2015  Week 07 - CSS Part 02
               Requirements Analysis
Tue Oct 13, 2015  Week 08 - JavaScript Part 01
Tue Oct 20, 2015  Week 09 - JavaScript Part 02
               CSS Competency
Tue Oct 27, 2015  Week 10 - Frameworks and Wordpress
Tue Nov  3, 2015  Week 11 - Server-side Scripting Part 01
               Solution Definition
Tue Nov 10, 2015  Week 12 - Server-side Scripting Part 02
Tue Nov 17, 2015  Week 13 - Server-side Scripting Part 03
Tue Nov 24, 2015  No Class - Thanksgiving
Tue Dec  1, 2015  Week 14 - Open Consultations
Tue Dec  8, 2015  Week 15 - Project Presentations
Tue Dec 15, 2015  Final Project Submission