

Github link: <https://github.com/Alcielle/CS563project>

## The initial hurdles

This program is a culmination of 2 months of applying HTML, CSS and Javascript. The start of this involved vicious wrestling with the actual VS code setup. While the processes involved to use VSCode are simple enough, there was a bit of a struggle transitioning from using vim and the terminal with all its shortcut keys to using a much more accessible IDE. Once this was figured out though the next hurdle became actually learning and applying HTML precepts and conformities in order to fit assignment requirements as well as just deploy good and accessible code. Towards this end I made pretty large use of w3schools just to template off of and play with what were html keywords that we were learning and using in class. I did not have to actually use these references for this class. I just thought they should bear mentioning as they are part of why I was able to comprehend the application and usage of the elemental features needed for this website.

How this applies: Once someone sets up VSCode, downloads the Prettier and the LiveServer addons, and has it open; one proceeds to make a folder for the project, make a file for the html code or multiple if multiple pages used, a file for the javascript, and one for the css styling sheet. This is done simply by clicking the file+ icon in the editor and adding the appropriate end tags (example javascript you add .js). Once these files are made the initial setup involves establishing the layout of your html page including the title, headings of significant elements, and if desired, any text and images associated with significant heading elements. I did this compartmentally by making one subtopic at a time and fleshing out each subtopic in sequence rather than altogether. So Navbar was made first, followed by the landing page, followed by work history, followed by projects and finally the contacting form.

## Watching a tutorial

I utilized tutorials that were posted by Brian Design on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@briandesign>) which would have been pretty incomprehensive without the aforementioned initial hurdles. Rather than being something to riff off of (although I did use some of the concepts he showed which I'll mention below), it proved as somewhat of confirmation that I was actually getting these things. We had our forms, our landing page, and even cards (I didn't use this although it was an option I thought of for the project portion) from prior assignments to use as templates for what we'd put into this site. His videos were informative of some of the minutiae of what the styling meant for individual aspects as well as what individual aspects represented. ul and li present as examples of this where I didn't actually know what they meant despite using them off w3 because w3 said to use them. He demonstrated what gradient text was which I thought was really cool so looked into it further and

incorporated it (<https://cssgradient.io/blog/css-gradient-text/> was helpful towards this). Additionally and probably the biggest help from his videos, was the ease with which he was able to use VScode. I'd been using vim before this and just saving in the VScode editor. Watching him made me want to use the editor instead of vim due to the ease with which he was able to apply the IDE. So I did. I looked up some things I might have been missing. Found out like most text editors to edit one must actually press 'i' to begin changing anything and this streamlined the process immensely. While most of the parts of his videos didn't apply to what I was doing, I watched till the end anyway because it was again very validating to actually understand what was going on and how things worked together at the smaller level. It led to me actually looking stuff up more just to flesh out how well I understood it. I did try to add some of his JS code to use with my navbar. The menu toggle worked and it's simple enough code just converting the three bars in the bullet list into an arrow by making the middle child disappear and then having the other two bend at 45 degree angles down and up respectively. I could not, however, get the menu to disappear though on an active click of one of the options.

## Image resizing and fitting to the style

Initially I was using very large images which were filling the page. This page: <https://www.editorx.com/shaping-design/article/resize-image-css> started me towards the process of understanding the adjustment to images and how the margins more than the alignment as well as how customizing height and width helped with image fitting.

## Session by session breakdown

- 1) Made the basic navbar. This was simple and involved just declaring a few headings and links associated. I used containers here for the first time and it was very handy and propagated through the rest of the assignment other than where there was just one or two elements to a section
- 2) Worked on the navbar CSS portions. Compartments to hold each subtopic helped here a lot. It let me use some freedom in applying individual css styling to specific elements. While I kept to a unified theme, the option is there to apply more colorful additions in future sites.
- 3) Researched and learned about how to apply gradients and what caused the application. This was used throughout the design of the page. Perhaps a bit too much
- 4) Watched the tutorial videos to learn how things worked together a little more. This took a few hours.
- 5) Once the navbar was designed and fully fleshed out, I had to decide whether to write the entire page in one page with sections or in a few pages. I decided to go with one page since the information in such a page is really scarce. Making it multiple pages would have just meant adding extra unnecessary visual elements. The navbar involved a logo as described in the video to mark what the page was, the individual links, and a fancy gradient contact button to differentiate it. This actually looks uglier than if I'd just made the contact section another section link on the navbar but I was having fun.

- 6) Proceeded to design the landing page or About me section. This involved learning about image sizing as the initial image post was far too large and then I had to decide how I wanted to style the page. Ultimately decided to make it a centered image and centered text so that it would be mobile friendly.
- 7) Proceeded to design the past work portion. Decided to have coursework be a different color so it could stand out. This didn't take long as it was a lot of copying and pasting code from the landing page section with changes made according to what was required for the section. The option was there to use cards here and perhaps in a future implementation I will. Cards could represent each course and a bit of what it is about and what skills it taught. I kept it simple. CSS was copied almost verbatim from the previous section's CSS barring the button portions as there's no button. New labels were used in case of future design changes that might be made (I do want to save this as a template for future use).
- 8) Proceeded to design the projects portion. This involved setting up links to external repositories for each as well as some styling choices to separate out each of the three projects. I considered adding a fourth project but the fourth project is more incomplete than the three I presented which were fully fleshed out and designed. Once again CSS was copied (rather than using one CSS class for each similar element combination) and classes were labeled accordingly for potential future design changes.
- 9) The form gave me multiple issues. This was where I learned about how display differs starting initially with an inline setup then after repeated problems and hours spent, trying table, inline-box, and inline-table. Ultimately settled with the simplistic contact form seen in the finished site.
- 10) Added in the Javascript. A core addition taken from the tutorial was the dropdown menu on screen size shrinking. I used the form checking JS code from the previous assignment.
- 11) Attempted to add the highlighting feature which just wasn't working. Added the menu hiding feature on click but this is also not working

Deployed site: [alcielle.github.io](https://alcielle.github.io)