

I learned a lot over this semester. I learned how in this day in age, with most people looking at websites through their phones it's important to design a website with a mobile first approach. I still need to figure out the best way for me to go about this and implement it. I learned about the Chrome inspector this semester which has helped me in more ways than I can count! At first this tool can be overwhelming, there are so many aspects to it. Once I got the hang of how to use it, I use it a lot to help me fix things on my websites. I think it's neat that in the inspector tool you can click on an element and in the style section you can see all the styles that are affecting that element. Learning this also helped me when we used in in Bruce's class to work through JavaScript problems.

The Lighthouse tool in the inspector is also a neat way to audit your websites to see if there are any issues you should fix. The Lighthouse tool looks at the performance, accessibility, best practices, and SEO (Search Engine Optimization) of your website and gives you a score in each area. Each section is coded like a stop sign based on your score. Green is good, yellow means there could be some improvement and red means your website scored low. On the Performance portion it will sometimes even list opportunities that you can take to speed up your website, and therefore increase the score in this area. Another reason I like to use the Lighthouse tool is to check the contrast in my websites. Sometimes I think the contrast may be enough, but the computer recognizes that my colors aren't contrasting enough for those who may be color blind, so I know that I need to change the color choices I have made.

During this course we worked more with grid-based design, which was helpful for me. This semester was really the first time I have utilized CSS grid to make a full website. I still need to work more with it, but I think once I get a good grip on it, that it will be beneficial to my website set up in the future, and I will utilize it more. The resume assignment that we did where we started with a mobile view and then had to use media queries to make it responsive for a tablet view, as well as a laptop view was beneficial. It took some work to get everything to line up the way I wanted it to on each screen size. I have decided that making everything mobile responsive is probably what makes our job as web designers the hardest, because there are so many different screen sizes.

I enjoyed the setup of this where the first part if the class was lecture, and the second half of the class was lab time. During the lab time we could work on the assignments that were assigned to us that day, or work on the existing projects, all while the teacher was there to ask for help or any questions that we had. With me being so busy this semester I tried to take full advantage of lab time to finish the assignment that day if possible.

Using Bootstrap and FIGMA for our final web project was helpful to be able to visualize our ideas before we started coding them. FIGMA was okay but, I think I would like it more if I understood it better. I have seen other FIGMA prototypes that other classmates have created and mine look nothing like theirs. My FIGMA prototype was pretty basic and didn't look like a real website, so I know I still have a lot to learn when it comes to FIGMA. Using bootstrap, I was able to design a website that I really liked, so when trying to code the website from scratch I

tried to make it look like the bootstrap version, but I couldn't get it to look quite the same. Overall, I am happy with my website. I am not going to lie; this semester has been a lot for me. 18 hours of school while working full time and trying to be a good wife and a mom was very difficult. I felt like this whole semester I have just been trying to keep my head above water. I am happy with my website, but I think with some more time I could have done a lot more with it. I want to continue to update this website and I plan to add more to it as I learn and grow. I want my website to be a diary of sorts, a place for me to be able to keep things that I want to remember and to help people that maybe struggling like I have been.

Overall, I have grown in my knowledge of web design and development this semester. I know that this field is constantly changing, and I must keep developing my skills. I plan on continuing to work with W3 schools and any other website I find helpful over the summer to keep sharpening my skills. I hope that by the fall I will have developed a mobile first mindset and fully know how to make any website be able to adapt from mobile, to tablet, and laptop view. Thank you, Professor, for all that you have taught me this semester.