Semester Project: Informational Website

PURPOSE: To design, develop, and publish an informational website using recommended design practices. You can choose from a variety of themes, as long as it is your original work. Examples include: an avocation, your original literary or artistic creations, or something worthwhile that you are well-informed about. You may even use a research paper from another class, if you can prove that you wrote it. The idea is to create a website that contains worthwhile and original information for visitors. Please keep in mind that this is NOT A FICTITIOUS WEBSITE; THE INFORMATION MUST BE REAL.

To best manage your project, it will be split up into four milestones – much like a real-world project development cycle. The milestones are worth the following percentage of your final grade.

Web Site Topic Approval	4%
Planning Analysis Sheet	4%
Site Map	4%
Final Website Project	18%
TOTAL	**30%**

NOTE: If you wish to create a commercial website instead of this one, you may do so. However, you will have to publish it on a server *other than* students.cofc.edu. Also, your commercial website must meet all of the criteria listed above.

GENTLE WARNING: Content inspiration does not mean that you can copy other people's websites. For the most part, you must come up with original content for your website. You may use *some* researched information, but you must cite and document it appropriately.

PROJECT MILESTONES

Website Topic Approval:

Prepare the proposal as a webpage with CSS layout. You can write it in either a narrative or bulleted format. Remember to link it to your *Assignments Page.*

1. What is the purpose of the site?
2. What do you want the web site to accomplish?
3. Who is your intended audience?
4. What opportunity, problem, or issue is your site addressing?
5. What type of content might be included in your site?
6. List 3 similar sites, and specify whether each example is based on *content* or *design inspiration*.

   - At least one sample site should be related to your *proposed content*.
   - Also, at least one sample should provide you with some *design inspiration*. (Don't worry—I'm not going to hold you to this in the end.)
- The appearance of the page must be at least up to par with what we have covered so far.
- The layout must be 2 columns. The total width of the columns must be 1000 px or less (i.e. #wrapper).
   - In the first column, you will address questions 1-5, using a bulleted or narrative format. IMPORTANT: Even if you use bulleted format, you must answer the questions thoroughly. Using full sentences and deeper thinking will aid in your planning for the overall project.
   - In the second column, you will answer question 6. Use small screenshots to display your sample websites. Be sure to provide hyperlink the pictures or text below it.

DUE ON	Friday, February 26, 2021

Planning Analysis Sheet:

Write a plan that includes the following subheadings. Prepare it as a webpage with attractive CSS layout, and link it to your *Assignments Page.*

Make sure this assignment is in a **separate folder** from your Website Topic Approval. However, if your layout was satisfactory, all you need to do is copy your files into the new folder and keep going.

- **Website goal:** Describe 2 or 3 specifics that you wish your site to accomplish. (Note that if you did a good job of defining these in your Topic Approval, you may still have the same goals.)
- **URL for Commercial Websites (ONLY):** *This requirement is **ONLY FOR** students designing a commercial website. If you are not designing a commercial website, simply skip to the next question. Please do not spend time answering this question.*

  If your website is going to be commercial, you must have secured a hosting company and domain name by this time. Please provide your domain and the name of the company that the site is being hosted with. This assignment will be considered late if your hosting space and domain is not purchased yet. See me in the office if you have any questions.
- **Navigation menu:** List the titles of the main pages that you are planning for your website. You are required to have at least five (5) pages. (e.g. Home, History, About Me, etc.)
- **Information and resources:**
  List what you need, and where you will obtain them (facts, text, graphics, sounds, etc.) In this section, there should be assurance that your content will mostly be original.
- And remember, the page must look pleasant and use a columnar layout.

DUE ON	TBA

Site Map and Wireframe:

Create a sitemap that storyboards your website. This sitemap shows the hierarchy of pages and relationships between the pages. You may use a visual sitemap generator such as www.lucidchart.com
Another alternative is using a software such as Word or PowerPoint.

For the wireframe, use a software or online application to create a wireframe for the home page and one content page that clearly shows the major areas of the webpage.

Submit as a pdf file. You are likely to have 3 pages plus your cover page in your PDF file

Link it to your Assignments Page.

DUE ON	TBA

Final Website Project:

Finish publishing your website to the students.cofc.edu server. Place a link to it on your Assignments Page.

This counts as Final Exam and is due:

> 09:30pm **class:** TBA
> 10:30pm **class:** TBA

You must publish your project to the students.cofc.edu web server. The **requirements to earn at least a C** on the final website are listed below:

- **NO TEMPLATES**
- The website must be responsive
- The homepage must be called index.html
- Only one CSS external page.
- All images must be optimized.
- The navigation must be configured with unordered lists
- The layout must be more than one column
- A total of six (6) pages or more
- One of the pages must be an "About" page
- Proper identity at top of each page; although your home page can look different from secondary pages
- Consistent and easy-to-follow navigation
- Include meta tag for **description**
- Include at least one table used effectively
- Hyperlinked e-mail on home page
- External hyperlinks
- Do not use social media links unless they lead to your real social media accounts
- All HTML and CSS pages must be validated at http://validator.w3.org and http://jigsaw.w3.org
- Fragment IDs on pages if they are longer than two screens.
- Your site must be viewable at different resolutions, and in different browsers without significant differences.
- **DO NOT** use a form unless it is both functional and meaningful. This cannot be used to fill or represent a page. If you want to use a form, you must go the extra mile and code the processing script for it.
- If you choose to use YouTube or other un-original videos, make sure there are no more than two (unless they belong to you). The reason is that YouTube videos are not your original content.
- Suggestion – but not required: Use a multi-line footer, perhaps containing a few of your social media accounts if you wish to share. But don't link them to generic websites.

In order **to earn a higher grade**, you must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of HTML using proper coding, attractive imagery, and effective layout. Also, be sure to follow the recommended web site design practices at http://terrymorris.net/bestpractices. In summary, if you simply stick with the minimum requirements, without attempting any challenging HTML5, CSS, and CSS3 features, it may mean that you have earned an average grade of "C".