

# Group Assignment CA106 Submission 18<sup>th</sup>

## December – 23:55 – worth 50%

Designing any website takes time and effort, especially with today's Covid Pandemic. Firstly and most importantly you need to consider:

- How to work as a team, while maintaining social distancing and keeping safe.
  - If your using zoom login to hold your meetings use your DCU account, to do this use the SSO login option within ZOOM and you will see the following window

**Sign In with SSO**

Company Domain

dcu-ie.zoom.us

**Continue**

[I don't know the company domain](#)

- If you type in dcu-ie it will take you to your DCU login, using this method you can stay logged in for as long as you need the meeting to run, and will not be kicked out after the 40 minute time for the free version.

Secondly, you need to consider many other diverse factors in the process. Some things you need to think about are:

- What is the idea behind the site?
- What content do I need to present in order to convey my idea?
- How will this be structured?
- How will it look to my users?
- Can all users access my site?
- How will I maintain, and improve my website?

This project aims to teach you the rudiments of putting a good website together. Like all good software projects, in order to build a website, you need to learn to work with others to achieve your goals and complete tasks. This means you must divide the work up, then bring everything together to put the site online. The following pages document what you are expected to accomplish in the remaining time available to you this semester.

Should you need to contact me on the topic of this assignment, please include the module code and your group ID in the subject of any emails. Also, please only send course-related emails from your DCU accounts. I have fairly stringent spam filters in place, and emails from people who are not in my contacts, or who use various readily-available domains (Gmail etc.) may get filtered to a folder which I do not check very often. The group ID have been be provided to you in a recent email.

# Specification

Websites should be built for a clearly defined purpose with the design process centred on the users for which the website is intended. In order to achieve these goals a website designer must decide the objectives of the website, study the characteristics of the intended users, choose appropriate content, and then design the structure and pages of the website so that the users can easily use it for the intended purpose.

You have been placed into teams to complete this assignment. These are teams of five or six students. You will work with your team members to build a fully functional, if fairly basic, website.

Firstly,

- You will decide, as a team, the purpose and content of your site.
- You will also allocate a section to each team member. At this juncture, it will be the responsibility of each team member to implement their specific section of the site.
- Finally, you will take the completed sections, and bring them together into a cohesive and finished site.

As a team, you should choose from the list of topics below. They are very broadly defined, so by all means put your own spin on them.

- Find a sport, or group of sports, and give information about it. This can be about the rules, history, important people, etc. etc.
- Genre/genres of music. Just like sport, you can give information about the genres, history, characteristics, important people (albums) etc. **Note:** this one can also be applied to films, books, or anything else you wish.
- A Recipe site. This can take the form of cookery instructions, how-to, advice on nutrition, etc.
- A website based on the various cultures in your group. Here, you can describe the cultures, countries from whence they come etc.
- A site for a small business. This can be an interesting one, particularly if you get a business to collaborate. **Note:** you wouldn't have a chance of getting the entire site finished for this assignment however you can get some sections of it done.
- A website on something historical. For example, the sites of Ancient Rome/Pompeii, or local history of a specific area of Ireland.
- A brochure or magazine-style publication with various sections.

**Note:** I want to be educated when I read your submissions. These ideas give scope for targeting the site at a specific user group or demographic. What I do not wish to see are things like “the best pubs in Dublin”, or “Good student nights out”, etc.

**You should also ensure your site contains nothing which is offensive, defamatory, or in any way violates the DCU policies on acceptable usage of machines or content. Finally, if you use images or content from other sites, you must include links to the original copyright holder. You should endeavour to choose content which has the appropriate licensing permitting its re-use.**

## Getting Started

The first thing which each team needs to do is to work on the following:

1. Agree on the topic of the site.
2. Decide who you're aiming it at, and why. **Note**, I do not wish to see statements here like "we decided to do a recipe site for students only, as we're students and know what other students like/want." The reality is: You don't. So pick the potential users carefully and based on either a perceived gap in available information etc.
3. Divide the work up such that each team member has one section of the site to complete. Each person needs to decide what content (text, images, video etc.) goes on their part of the site.

For the purposes of this assignment, a section is defined as a portion of the website consisting of a **section homepage**, and **4 pages linked to it**. Thus, each section of the website consists of 5 pages looking at a different topic associated with the website. For example, if I were doing a website on the topic of “**Food and Recipes**”, then I might include a section on ‘**world Cuisine**’ another on ‘elegant dining’, and maybe another on ‘diet and health’ etc.,.

For the ‘**world cuisine**’ section/topic I would create a directory called **world cuisine** in which I would have all the content (text, images, video etc.) for this part of the site. The directory should have a homepage (index.html file) which will have the content to introduce the section as well as links to the other four pages of this section. The four other pages will detail various aspects of the information relating to this subject area (e.g., each page for within the ‘world cuisine’ topic section could have recipes from Chinese, Thai, Mexican and Indian cuisine).

During the initial discussions, you need not specify precisely what content you wish to include. For example, if I were involved in a team building a site on the food and recipes site, and my section related to world cuisine, I might decide to include a page of image(s) and/or videos showing recipes from Thailand. My initial frame of reference might be: "The page will consist of some recipes showing how to cook great Thai food, some recipes range from beginners' level to a more experienced cook, and explain which category the recipe falls into and why".

You should be aware that working in teams can be a tricky thing. This is why it is extremely important that you set up the processes and procedures that will work for you as a team. You should document exactly what each person has agreed to do, and by when it is to be completed. When team meetings are held, nominate someone to take notes (minutes) and then share them with everyone. Shared google docs are very handy for this kind of thing. Rotate this role, so that you all gain experience of this very necessary function.

## Building the site

Now that, as a group, you have picked the overall topic and chosen the section each of you wishes to complete it is time to (metaphorically) get the hands dirty and start to build. At this point, you have identified what content you wish to appear on the various pages comprising your section. Now, **it's time to get the job done**

**Each site needs to have a home page which describes the purpose of the site.** Just like any other website, this is going to give an overview, and links to the major sections (pages) of the site. **You need to all use the same CSS.** The hallmark of a good site is consistency. Marks will be lost if pages do not look alike, or if they are exactly identical.

Each team member is required to create their section of the website whose topic has just been agreed with the others in your group. The section must consist of:

- 1 page called index.html which is, in effect, the homepage for each particular section.
- Well structured, and semantically correct HTML must be used on each page.
- You must, I stress **absolutely must** include a CSS file in each section. See below for more details on this.
- You are expected to incorporate various tags. For example, there are many different types of list. Also, there are tags for quoting material, embedding audio/video etc. If you simply hand back a modified version of the material provided with no evidence of your own work, you will not achieve a high grade.
- Also use an appropriate directory structures to store your various HTML and CSS files, see below:

Within each of these directories you will have sub directories (e.g., image and css directories)

- All pages should validate. This means, you should check them using [The W3C Validator \(External Link\)](#). Pages which do not validate will lose marks.
- Your pages need to be written in a manner which is accessible, and conform to [the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(External link\)](#)

As a part of the finished group site, you need to add one extra page. This should be linked from the homepage and contain the following:

- A contact form.

**Note:** it doesn't have to work, but you need to have the HTML and CSS done correctly.

- A description of what each member contributed in terms of CSS to the overall group project. "we just worked on it all together" isn't an acceptable answer.
- A list of 2 mistakes per person that you made during the course of this assignment

The website will be assessed based on its design and the use of HTML, CSS and any other web technologies included. Specifically I will look to see that you have followed the general principles of good website design and that you show clear evidence of having considered the needs of the user group at whom your site is targeted.

## Submission and Deliverable

I will be providing usernames and passwords for accounts on the student server which have been specifically created in order to be used in completing this project. Each team should take some time to finalise both the topic, and the breakdown of work which each member will undertake. Only when these aspects of the project, have been determined will I give the username and password; and not before Wednesday 25th November. It needs to be stated that there may (and will) be tweaks and slight deviations from the original plan which is arrived at, and this is quite normal. Once the team has picked the topic, and allocated sections to each member, nominate one person to contact me and request the login details for the group account.

The due date for this project is 18th December at 23:55. There is no need to submit the project, after the due date the accounts will be locked and copied to the lecturer's home directory. Please understand this. **After the due date, you will not be able to edit at all**, this is an automated process. A script will run at the appropriate time, so 1 second late means you don't get marks. More details will be provided in class. You should also submit the URL on loop, you should copy and paste the url to avoid any typo errors.