

## CSCB20 Course Website Improvement Report

For our CSCB20 project, we took on the challenge of improving the course website. While the original site had a decent base of information and resources for the course, it lacked good design, easy navigation, and mobile-friendliness—making it harder for students to use.

Our goal was to redesign it into a cleaner, more accessible, and student-friendly site. This report outlines the issues we found and the steps we took to improve the overall experience.

Based on the previous course website link provided, the following issues have been identified.

<https://www.utoronto.ca/~bretscher/b20/lectures.html>

1. Non-responsive design: Improper fit to desktop resolution
  - a. Does not make use of entire desktop screen resulting in inefficient use of space
2. Lack of user-friendly navigation
  - b. Navigation bar
    - i. Misaligned navigation bar on the left side
    - ii. All menu options laid out (long navigation)
    - iii. Inconsistent between pages
3. Lack of UI design
  - c. Lack of visual appeal for users due to the lack of spacing between paragraphs and tables
4. Lack of Footer
  - a. Standard web design practice to have footer for consistency and usability
5. Missing Resources
  - o Does not include links to required resources such as Markus

After identifying the issues above, we implemented the following to improve our redesigned site.

1. Responsive Design
  - a. Website adjusts to desktop and mobile phone resolutions making it convenient for user to navigate and use on different devices
2. Navigation Bar
  - b. Used drop-down menu features to group related menu options together making navigation easier on the eyes for users

- i. Example: The “Syllabus”, “Course Team”, and “Calendar options” pages were grouped under the Navigation bar as “Course Information”
- c. Kept consistency of menu options and order throughout all the pages
- 3. Improve UI design
  - d. Adding shapes and colors to pages to fit the information being relayed to the user
- 4. Added resources, pages, and footer
  - e. Included additional resources and pages useful to students such as links to MarkUs and a website-integrated anonymous feedback feature
  - f. Included a footer with a link to the CMS page and information of website creators

Throughout the assignment, our group faced the following challenges:

- 1. Design consistency between pages
  - a. Making sure we were all on the same page for layouts, fonts, and colors across all pages was difficult initially
- 2. Group approach for assignment of tasks
  - b. Coordinating our individual tasks and merging everything into one was difficult initially due to the nature of website design and creation.

We overcame our challenges by implementing the following:

- 1. Using mockups as a guide to consistency
  - a. We decided to finalize the general mockups on Figma and agreed to base our page designs off them as a visual reference for all team members
  - b. Any small changes we made was communicated throughout
  - c. We split page designs based on similar layouts
- 2. Real-Time collaboration
  - a. Working simultaneously on call and in person for effective communication whenever we had to align on specific details
- 3. Use of GitHub
  - a. Halfway through, we decided to use a GitHub repository to push and pull updates between all members to speed up our process

With our improvements, we’ve turned the CSCB20 course website into a more modern, responsive, and user-friendly space. By fixing design issues and making navigation smoother, the updated site helps create a better experience for students while keeping things clear and well-organized.