

Welcome to INFO6150

INFO6150: Web Design/User Experience



Pandemics

We live in a time of large scale health concerns

- School requirements are defined
- I can support you
- If you need excused absences or remote attendance
 - Let me know

About The Instructor

- Brett Ritter <b.ritter@northeastern.edu>
- Web Developer for 25+ years
- Teaching since 2017
 - Part time, not trained as teacher
- Terrible memory
 - Remind me of things
- Web Dev, not Designer
- Terrible memory

What does INFO6150 teach?

- How to implement UI/UX decisions
 - Using HTML, CSS, JS
 - Native "vanilla" JS
 - Later, React
- Important needs in UI/UX
 - Accessibility (a11y)
 - Semantics
 - Maintainability
 - Avoiding Dark Patterns

What does INFO6150 NOT teach

- Design
 - More HOW than WHY
 - Taught from Web Dev perspective
- Server-side/Backend logic
 - See INFO6250 for this
- Advanced Front End logic
 - See INFO6250 for this
- Using Libraries (mostly)
 - Libraries are great!
 - But we are training *your* skills

What to expect

- Lots of HTML/CSS
- Focus on best practices
 - NOT "it works"
 - NOT "looks right"
- Many syntaxes
 - HTML
 - CSS
 - JS
 - React

How this course flows

- Weekly lectures
- Weekly assignments
 - Submitted via Github
 - Due night before next class
- Weekly Quizzes
 - On Canvas
 - Open Notes
 - Not time-limited
 - Due night before next class
- Projects
 - Like big assignments

How the Course is Graded

- Quizzes (10% of grade, lowest dropped)
- Assignments (15% of grade, lowest dropped)
- Projects (each 25% of grade)

Final Project can raise low grades!

Instructor Virtual Office Hours

- Mon 8am-9am (ET) / 11am-noon (PT)
 - Preference to 6150 Questions
- Tue 8am-9am (ET) / 11am-noon (PT)
 - Preference to 6250 Questions
- Thu 8am-9am (ET) / 11am-noon (PT)
 - Preference to 6150 Questions
- Fri 8am-9am (ET) / 11am-noon (PT)
 - Preference to 6250 Questions
- Other times by appointment
- Available on Slack for quick questions

Teaching Assistants

- Virtual Office Hours
 - To be announced

Extensions

I am reasonably generous with extensions

- Real Life happens
- No excuses needed
- No penalty for granted extensions
- Builds Real Job Skills

BUT!

- Ask BEFORE day assignment is due
 - Unpredictable problems are fine
- Don't overuse
- On-time grading gets priority before late

Tools for the Course

I have built this course to use tools like a job would

- I will note exceptions

Canvas

- Zoom Meetings link
- Quizzes
- Grades
 - Note: grading can take up to a week
 - Details will be in Github

Otherwise don't make much use of Canvas

- Let me know if you think I should!

Zoom

- Classes are streamed and recorded
 - Recordings available in Canvas
- Virtual Office Hours
 - Link posted in Slack

NOT USED/BARELY USED

- Zoom Chat (use Slack instead)
- Break out rooms (too busy)
- Your Video (You can, not required)

Operating System

Mac, Windows, *nix

- All allowed for course (tools work on all)
- All exist in jobs
- Mac common in bigger teams/companies
- Windows common in small teams/companies
- Windows common in explicit MS stack (.NET)
- *nix never common, but is underlying tech

I use Mac

- Windows users may need to adjust (rare)

Browser

A web browser is a significant tool for...web

- Course will use Chrome browser
- Current most common with users
- Many Devs prefer Firefox for development
- Our techniques should work in all major browsers
 - Developer Tools (DevTools) minor differences
- Real work should always be tested in all
- But course will use only Chrome

Editor / IDE

- Used to edit HTML/CSS/JS/JSX files
- Course does not have any requirement
- Instructor will use **vim**
 - Instructor is old like dirt
 - Also vim presents fewer distractions
- **VSCode** is recommended for students
 - But not required
 - Most common with devs

Slack

We use **Slack** as our in-class chat

- Matches more jobs
- Actual job SKILL
 - Searching
 - Bouncing between channels
 - Not missing replies
 - Not starting with "Hi" (<https://nohello.com>)
- Sign up here: <https://rebrand.ly/bosinfo6150-slack>
 - I need to unlock existing accounts
 - If you started the class previously

Slack Notes

- Good for code snippets
 - Use ` (backtick) around a command
 - Use ``` (triple backtick) around code block
- Screen shots often problematic
 - Unreadable on mobile
- I am very available on Slack!
 - Reach out anytime!
 - If I'm not available, I won't respond
 - If you don't hear back, remind me!
- I announce changes to assignments, class cancellations, etc

Git

git is a version control system

- tracks changes to files
- HEAVILY used in jobs
 - Even when not git, will be some other VCS
- git is a lot to take in!
 - Notes will have suggestions to learn it better
- Being able to use git great for jobs
- Knowing more than the minimum even better!
- You will need to download/install

Github

- git manages a local (your computer) "repository"
- Github is a central repository
- Each student will have their own Github repo
 - Get yours here: **<https://rebrand.ly/bosinfo6150-github>**
- I push notes and assignments to github
- You pull to your local repo from github
- You push work from your local repo to github
- TAs and I grade and merge (more detail later)
 - Real job: You merge

NodeJS and related tools (npm, npx)

- Javascript (JS) for server-side
- We use it but not write for it
 - That's my 6250 class
- You will need to download and install it
 - Either "Latest Stable" or "LTS" version

Class Recordings

- I cast and record classes on Zoom
 - Links available on Canvas
- Always a risk of technical problems!
 - Missing class is a risk
- University has physical attendance policy
 - I pay attention if you are doing poorly

Accommodations

If you require any accommodations

- Lasting or temporary
- For reasons physical, mental, or emotional
- Let me know and I will work with you

Your Repository

Key things to find in your repo

- Syllabus (`/syllabus.md`)
- Do Not Copy policy (`/do-not-copy-work.md`)
- Readings (`/readings`)
- Samples (`/samples`)
- Class Notes (`/classes`)
- Class Assignments (`/work`)
- Projects (`/project1`, `/project2`, `/final`)

Tips for Excelling in this course

- I teach more than is required to pass with an A
- What I teach should help you on the job

Key tips:

- Ask questions!
- Do the assignments from scratch
 - NOT using others' code "as a reference"
 - Do not copy code
 - Practice teaches MORE than main lesson
- Start Projects ASAP
 - Coding always takes longer than expected

If you fall behind...

- Tell me
 - As soon as you notice
- We can figure out how to fix things
 - "Working harder" is a nice thought
 - Often that's not the problem
- This is a JOB SKILL
 - Manager and team want to know ASAP
 - So they can prevent problems
 - Not about blame

Use Caution with Online Resources

- A lot in Webdev has changed over time!
 - Lots of outdated/misleading resources
- Never trust any source over 3 years old
- Prefer **MDN** as a source
 - W3schools is "okay", but I recommend MDN first
- Never copy/paste code(HTML/CSS/JS)
 - Understand and recreate it first