

# Interaction: Core Lab

*Spring 2012 Syllabus*

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## Course Description

*Interaction: Core Lab* is about creating user interfaces, and understanding how they work. The main focus will be on making things for the web. We will learn how to write HTML, CSS, and Javascript in order to produce usable and engaging interfaces. To that end, we will be exploring typography, multi-column layouts, navigation menus, image galleries, and more!

This course is designed to be complementary to *Interaction: Core Studio*. The emphasis here will be placed on learning the technical things you'll need in order to apply the concepts taught in your studio class.

If you have never written or seen HTML, fear not! We will concentrate on the basics. Everything is going to be okay! If it happens that you already do have experience with these technologies, fear not, you won't be bored—we will hone your craft. At the end of the day, my goal here is for you to be able to produce work in the interactive realm that you are proud of.

## Class Website

I will be using a website, <http://coursekit.com/app#course/pudt-2101.kanter> to post homework assignments, any other class info and administrative stuff, resources, tutorials, examples, etc. You should use this site throughout the semester.

## Schedule

Please refer to the Calendar section on the class website ( <http://coursekit.com/app#course/pudt-2101.kanter/calendar> ) for a running schedule of class topics. The schedule may be adapted and tweaked as the semester progresses, and what's on the site will always be kept up to date accordingly.

## Student Expectations

You will be getting homework every week that is usually due by the following class. There will be two larger assignments for which you will have more time (2–3 weeks).

There will be an in-class midterm quiz. Details about this will come in advance.

You are required to keep a website for this class, where you will post links to your completed homework assignments. We will discuss the details of this in the first week.

We will practice and work on things a good amount during class. You are welcome to bring a laptop to work on, but note that it will be fine to use the computers in the classroom. Details about the software tools we'll actually be using will be discussed in depth, but everything you'll need is completely free and available in computer labs on campus.

There is plenty of software out there, such as Adobe Dreamweaver, that enables one to produce websites through a visual interface, rather than by writing any code. In order to gain an understanding of how things really work under the hood, you will be required to write the code using a text editor.

There is no physical textbook for this course. However, note that we will be looking at websites not only for inspiration, but also to analyze how they are structured.

## Grading

Your final grade will be based on the quality and execution of your homework assignments, the website that you keep for this class, your midterm quiz, how hard you work *in class*, and attendance.

*Homework: 50%*

*Website: 10%*

*Quiz: 10%*

*In-class effort: 20%*

*Attendance: 10%*

## Attendance

Attendance is important. If you are absent more than *three* times, you will be at risk of failing this course.

## Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating is bad (e.g. not cool). The assignments given in this class will generally be exercises that involve writing HTML, CSS, and Javascript, and for all of these technologies it's very easy to look up solutions on the internet, and copy somebody else's code wholesale. You won't learn a single thing by doing this.

That said, we *will* be leveraging open source frameworks and libraries to build things in this class. It's not only okay, but in fact you are encouraged, to incorporate example code that you find (or that I provide) in your work. When you do this, have a basic understanding of why you are using a certain piece of code, and always give credit where it's due.

## Student Disability Services

In keeping with the University's policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations is welcome to meet with me privately. All conversations will be kept confidential. Students requesting any accommodations will also need to meet with Jason Luchs in the office of Student Disability Services, who will conduct an intake, and if appropriate, provide an academic accommodation notification letter to you to bring to me. At that point I will review the letter with you and discuss these accommodations in relation to this course. Mr. Luchs' office is located in 79 Fifth Avenue, 5th floor. His direct line is (212) 229-5626 x3135. You may also access more information through the University's web site at [ <http://www.newschool.edu/student-services/disability> ].