

Zach Kim

Prof Hillary Gross

INFO 303

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For my materiality project I decided to make a website about INFO 303: Writing Across Media in a syllabus style because I don't think many people know about this course and that it even exists. For this reason all the text is simply black and white. All the text in the main part of the website is centered because it fills in more of the whitespace so the white space isn't all to one side. I wanted to let people know about this course and what type of things to expect when taking it. I also wanted to compare the written code to what the user actually sees. The code that goes into making a website is complex and many people don't think about the elements needed to make one. Most people will only see the front-end which is the part that users interact with and are able to view. Furthermore, I wanted to practice coding in html because I used the language a little bit in high school and haven't used it since. I wanted to create a website because I thought it would be a fun way to brush up on a skill I haven't used in a while. I named the website "Materiality Project" because that is the assignment I am making this website for. To start off I looked back at my old projects at high school and copied an html template that I created which includes the different tags needed to make a website. From there I looked at my old projects and the iSchool website to get an idea of what type of elements I wanted to create.

The first thing I created was a navigation bar that is located at the top of the screen. I placed it here because it's easy to see and a navigation bar is usually placed here. I wanted to follow the normal convention because a user would normally go here to find it. The navigation

contains a black background with white text. I chose these colors because black contrasts the white background of the overall website. For the same reason I chose the white text because it provides a contrast to the black background of the navigation bar. I also created a feature where the button becomes white and the text becomes black when a user hovers over the section they want to read about. I created this feature because it clearly shows what section the user is about to click on. I made the hover background white and the text black because it shows a stark contrast and it makes it easy to read. I chose to include four different sections: Home, About, Projects, & Contact.

The “home” section is listed first and contains general information about this specific course section of the class. I made this the first section because a syllabus typically contains specific information first before going into more general information about the class. The header includes the section number and what the course is called. I made this the header for this section because I wanted to let the user know what this website is going to be about. People probably don’t know much about this class so I included the section number and course name to make it easier to talk about to other people. The first line of the body of the page includes the professor's name and email address. It's important to let a user know who teaches this section because they may want to take the class with the same professor I did so they know what to expect out of the course. I included the email address on the same line because it makes it easy to find so the user can directly email the instructor if they have any questions, comments, or concerns about the course before taking it. On the next line I included the schedule of this section because I wanted to let the user know when the class takes place so that they may plan their schedule accordingly. On the text line I included where this specific classroom meets which is in Huff Hall 209. After that I included a map image of where the classroom is because a person may be curious about

where the building is relative to other places on campus. The map is able to be enlarged and a person can directly get directions to Huff Hall by clicking on the image. I included the location as text and as an image because a person may only be interested in one, the other, or both.

The next section is the “About” section and contains more general information about the course: a course description, learning objectives, and the grading policy. I chose these three subsections for this section because they provide a good overview of the course as a whole without going into too much detail. The first subheading is the “About the Course” and this includes the course description directly from the course catalog and the requirements it meets. I wanted to give the person viewing my website the most general information about the course first before going into more specific details about it. The next subsection is the learning objectives in a numbered list. When taking a course, I am intrigued by the general topics I will be studying because it helps me prepare for what I will be learning about. By knowing all the themes ahead of time, I am able to connect different ideas together. The last subsection in the “about” section is the grading policy. Whenever I take a class, I like knowing how it’s graded ahead of time. WAM is graded in a very unique way and included this in my website because I want to prepare a student for what the class will be like. I have never taken a course where I choose what grade I get ahead of time. Usually a student must do all of the work, and their grade is dependent on how well they do based on all the assignments. It's rare to know exactly what you need to do for every assignment to get a certain grade in a course.

The next section is the “Projects” section that explains the different major projects you will be creating in this class. This class has no midterms or exams so I called this the “projects” section. One will have to do up to 5 major projects: materiality project, performance project, transformation project, and the genre analysis essay(s). I made this the order to write about the

projects because this is the order I will have to complete the projects. Everyone has to complete the materiality project and the performance so I put these two first. I put the materiality project before the performance project because you will make the materiality project first. Then the transformation project is the optional final project for those wanting a B+ or higher so I put this next. Lastly I put the genre analysis essays last because they can be completed at any time during the semester for those who want to get an A- or higher.

The last section in this website is the “contact” section which includes ways to get into contact with the iSchool. I made this the last section because it contains the most general about this course. I made the header of this section “Contact Us” because it included all the different ways to get into contact with the iSchool. I first included the address of the iSchool building because it's the most direct way to get into contact with the iSchool and that's where the office is located. Underneath the address, I included a map of the iSchool building so that the user can see where it is located on campus. By clicking on the image, one is able to enlarge the map and get immediate directions to the building. I included both the written address and a map because the building is hard to find and many people may not know where it is located. The next two lines included two different phone numbers: the voicemail number and the fax number. By phone is the next most direct way to contact the iSchool and I included the voice number first because a person is more likely to need to send a voicemail rather than fax a document. The last thing I included was the email address for the iSchool because this is the least direct way to contact the iSchool.

For the actual code of the website I made each section its own file because it helps me keep track of where I am putting all the information. The “home” section is called index.html because calling the main page index is convention and that's the file the computer will look for.

All the other section files are called “section name”.html because it makes it clear what they are for. The names are in all lowercase because that is the naming convention for html files. I created another file called “style.css” which contains all the code for all the styling decisions I made. Every section is blocked off by indentations because it makes the code more readable.

## Sources Used:

[linking pages together in html](#)

[creating a top nav bar in html](#)

Course syllabus