Programming web-based educational media

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**EDT 603 *Programming web-based educational media*, Spring 2013**

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
 <body>  
 <blockquote>  
 Anyone who has lost track of time when  
 using a computer knows the propensity  
 to dream, the urge to make dreams come  
 true and the tendency to miss  
 lunch.<br>  
 <strong>Tim Berners-Lee</strong>  
 <em>, inventor of the world wide web</em>  
 </blockquote>  
 </body>  
</html>

**Description:** In this course students learn techniques of web programming to develop interactive, educational media. Using the web programming language and web development technologies (HTML5, Javascript, CSS), students gain practice in the object oriented programming and design of interactive software. For their final project, students will create their own interactive educational website.

**Key words:** computer science, web development, python, interaction design, django, html, html5, css, javascript, OOP

# Required Books

Duckett, J. T. (2011). [*Html & css: design and build websites (1st ed.)*](http://htmlandcssbook.com/). Indianapolis, IN: Wiley Pubishing, Inc.



# Optional Books

Anderson, T. (Ed.). (2008). [*Theory and practice of online learning*](http://www.aupress.ca/index.php/books/120146). Edmonton: AU Press.

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Zelle, John. 2004. *Python programming: an introduction to computer science.*Franklin Beedle. Wilsonville, OR. ISBN 9781887902991.

# Schedule

| Day | Topic | Due |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | How the web works, Tools, Document Structure, Media |  |
| 2 | Style & Usability |  |
| 3 | Introducing Javascript | Single Page Site |
| 4 | Variables and Functions |  |
| 5 | Manipulating DOM | Redesign |
| 6 | Events |  |
| 7 | Data structures |  |
| 8 | Testing/Refactoring | Interactive application |

# Assignments & Grading

## Single Page Website (30%)

Students will build a single-page, informational website on a topic of their choice. Their website will be composed of HTML, CSS, and (optionally) Javascript. It will display their fluency with the HTML elements, styling with CSS, and enhancing user experience with Javascript. The content of the website is entirely up to the student. They are encouraged to create a website on something they are already familiar with and interested in. This is an individual project.

The project will be graded on the following criteria:

1. **Technical design (15 pts):**
   * is html code well formatted and error free?
   * are html elements used appropriately to give semantic structure to the document?
   * are elements combined in ways to make complex layouts?
   * is the document elegant? does it use tags minimally, but in a way that makes it clear for developers to read?
2. **Graphic design (10 pts):**
   * aesthetics
   * usability
   * media (images, video, audio)
   * typography
3. **Information architecture (10 pts):**
   * logical structure of information
   * organization of internal links on page
4. **Impact (5 pts):**
   * does the site deliver an important message?
   * do the design and content (copy) work together?

## Single Page Website Redesign (30%)

Building on the initial single page websites, students will form pairs or groups to collaborate to improve and extend their websites.

The new website must:

* be mobile accessible
* include enhanced features using Javascript

## Interactive web application (40%)

Using Javascript, HTML, and CSS students will design and develop an ineractive educational website.

# Web & Digital Media Toolbox and Resources

## Software & Tools

The first step in becoming a web developer is to get your computer set up to start writing code and testing it out. At the very least you will need a text editor and a web browser. I’m guessing you have a web browser already.

This short, curated list is the software we will be using.

* Text Editor
  + [Sublime](http://www.sublimetext.com/) (free trial, Mac, Win, Linux)
* Browser
  + [Firefox](http://www.firefox.com), our go-to browser, better with [the firebug extension](https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/firebug/)
  + [Safari](http://support.apple.com/kb/dl1531), to get a second look
  + [Chrome](http://www.google.com/chrome/), to test you site in Chrome
  + [Internet Explorer](http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/internet-explorer/download-ie), you might as well take a look in IE, too, either on your old windows box or in emulation
* Source control
  + [git](http://git-scm.com/downloads)
* FTP/SFTP/SCP Clients
  + [FileZilla](https://filezilla-project.org/download.php?type=client), cross platform
  + [CyberDuck](http://cyberduck.io/), mac
  + [WinSCP](http://winscp.net/eng/index.php), windows
* Windows stuff
  + [PuTTy](http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/), ssh client
  + [Cygwin](https://www.cygwin.com/), create a GNU/linux-like terminal on Windows. This is a big install, but worth it if you are going to stick with windows
* Linux
  + Linux is a great platform for programmers and web developers
  + many of the software is written/test on linux
  + many guides assume linux
  + your public website, eventually, will run on linux (in all likeliness)
  + so, check out [Ubuntu](http://www.ubuntu.com/) and maybe give it a shot, especially if you have a Windows laptop
* Virtualization
  + want to try linux but can’t commit?
  + want to install IE but hate Windows?
  + give [VirtualBox](https://www.virtualbox.org/) a shot
* Media editing
  + [Gimp](http://www.gimp.org/) for photo editing and raster images (instead of photoshop)
  + [Inkscape](http://inkscape.org/) for vector graphics (like SVGs)
  + [Audacity](http://audacity.sourceforge.net/) for editing and creating audio files
  + [LibreOffice Draw](http://www.libreoffice.org/features/draw/) is great for creating charts and diagrams, good for flowcharting and wireframes of software/sites you’re working on
  + Color picker: a tool to find the hex or RGB code for colors on your desktop
    - OSX (built-in): [DigitalColor Meter](http://www.techrepublic.com/blog/apple-in-the-enterprise/discover-the-digitalcolor-meter-tool-on-your-mac/)
    - Win: [List of Eyedropper](http://www.hongkiat.com/blog/eyedroppers-color-pickers-for-designers/)

## Books and online resources

### Documentation & Reference websites

* [World Wide Web Consortium](http://w3.org)
* [Mozilla Developer Network](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/)
* [jQuery](http://jquery.com/)
* [W3 Schools](http://www.w3schools.com/)
* [Regular Expressions](http://www.regexr.com/)

### Books

* [HTML and CSS: Design and Build Websites](http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118008189.html), our textbook
* [JavaScript & jQuery: Interactive Front-End Web Development Hardcover](http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118871650.html), also J. Duckett, same series
* [Dive into HTML 5](http://diveintohtml5.info/) [free online]
* [The Elements of Typographic Style Applied to the Web](http://webtypography.net/toc/) [free online]
* [Mastering Regular Expressions](http://shop.oreilly.com/product/9780596528126.do)

### Tutorial websites & online learning

* [Code Academcy](http://www.codecademy.com/)
* [P2PU School of webcraft](https://p2pu.org/en/schools/school-of-webcraft/)
* [Treehouse](http://teamtreehouse.com/) [paid]
* [Thinkful](http://www.thinkful.com/)
* [GeekCamp::HTML5 Tutorial](http://www.geekchamp.com/html5-tutorials/1-html5-overview)
* [SkilledUp::Learn Web Design](http://www.skilledup.com/learn-web-design-guide/)

### Design, accessibility, UX

* [A List Apart](http://alistapart.com/topic/html)
* [Smashing Magazine](http://www.smashingmagazine.com/)
* [Adobe Kuler](https://color.adobe.com/create/color-wheel/)
* [Nielsen/Norman Group](http://www.nngroup.com/articles/)
* [United States Section 508](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Section_508_Amendment_to_the_Rehabilitation_Act_of_1973)
  + <https://www.section508.gov/>
  + <http://webaim.org/standards/508/checklist>
* [Usability.gov](http://www.usability.gov/index.html)
* [Research-Based Web Design & Usability Guidelines](http://www.usability.gov/guidelines/guidelines_book.pdf)
* [hex/html color chart](http://www.december.com/html/spec/color.html)

### Online Tools

* [w3c HTML Validation Service](http://validator.w3.org/#validate_by_uri+with_options)
* [w3c CSS Validation Service](http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/)
* [Pastebin](http://pastebin.com/)
* [HTML Formatter](http://www.freeformatter.com/html-formatter.html)

### Media Resources

* [Creative Commons Search](http://search.creativecommons.org/), for images, music, etc
* [Wikimedia Commons](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page), images and other media (including stuff from Wikipedia), curated
* [Open Clip Art](https://openclipart.org/), free vector graphics
* [Creative Commons Music](http://creativecommons.org/music-communities)
* [Fossil Bank](http://fossilbank.wikidot.com/)
* [Colour Lovers Palettes](http://www.colourlovers.com/)
* [DaFonts](http://www.dafont.com/)