

## CS 325 - Introduction to Web Programming

JanPlan 2018

### Lab 7: Forms & PHP (Start in class and finish by tonight for full credit)

- Your goal is to create a PHP file `addComment.php` that adds user comments to a web page.
- I am giving you the HTML and CSS files for the initial comments page. You shouldn't need to modify the CSS file but you will be modifying the HTML page.
- When the user loads the page, enters a new comment in the form, and clicks "Submit", the form information should be sent to `addComments.php` on the server, which takes the name and comment and writes them to the HTML file. That way, every time the HTML page is requested in the future, all user comments will be displayed, not just the original ones.
- Use the POST method to submit the data to `addComment.php` on the server.
- When the user clicks "Submit", the page should be immediately redisplayed with the new comment added.
- The newest comment should always appear at the top of the comments.
- The name and comment inputs are required inputs and the name cannot contain only whitespace. An appropriate error message should be displayed if only whitespace is used.
- The date and time at which the comment was added should also be added to the page, as shown with the two sample comments. You should use the real (current) date and it should be formatted as in the two sample comments.
- When a user submits a comment, your PHP code should search the comment for URLs and convert those URLs into links so that, instead of displaying a comment such as "I think `http://www.google.com/` is a poorly designed web page", your page should display it as "I think <http://www.google.com/> is a poorly designed web page". (Hint: Upper and lower case are not significant in URLs, so "HTTP://WWW.GOOGLE.COM/" is a valid URL for Google's home page.). When doing the conversion, you can assume that all URLs are absolute URLs starting with "http://" or "HTTP://" or some mixture of capital and small letters such as "hTTp://". You can also assume that the URL goes up to the next space character after the "http://".

#### Submission Process:

All three files `addComment.php`, `addComment.html`, and `addComment.css` should be in your space on the cs325 server so that I try them out by going to the URL:  
`http://cs325.colby.edu/userid/addComment.html`