CS 125H: Term Project Criteria

A major portion of your grade for CS 125H will come from your creation of a website that demonstrates your mastery of the HTML & design skills covered throughout the 10 weeks of this class. Your web site should meet the following minimum criteria:

Website topic: Any G-rated topic of your own choosing. Be aware that although I will not censor your site topic, this is a great opportunity to select a professional/commercial topic that will be your first portfolio item that you can use to generate additional customers. A club, magazine, non-profit organization, local business, park or natural resource/scenic area would make for great material. Note that you may create your own fictional version of any of these if you would prefer.

Size: Your web site should consist of a minimum of four web pages; a homepage and three pages created by you that each relate to your topic in some way. Links to pages outside of your site, non-hand-coded pages, or pages not created by you personally do NOT count toward your four! Collecting four pages that do not contain a common theme will not result in a satisfactory score, as they will not be a unified web site.

Design Elements: Your web site should demonstrate each of the following design elements in some way.
1. Correct use of HTML5, including a document type declaration and required meta tags on **every** page
2. Proper use of semantic elements to organize pages
3. Appropriate integration of color and visual interest elements (images, rules, multimedia, etc)
4. Appropriate use of hyperlinks to create a functional navigation scheme
5. Appropriate use of at least one type of list
6. Use of a table to organize tabular data (a schedule, a price list, etc.)
7. Use of external CSS file(s) to create an interesting, responsive page layout
8. Use of external CSS file(s) to format text and graphical content in interesting and responsive ways
9. Appropriate and meaningful use of forms
10. Appropriate use of various HTML tags, attributes, and CSS styles to provide a meaningful site experience even in the absence of a visual browser.

Code Specifications: The code you create for your web pages should meet W3C requirements for 'good code'; code that is easy to read is easy to update and fix. Not every web page or HTML tutorial is a great example of good code. To be accepted for grading the code on all of your pages should:
1. Have tags, attributes, and attribute values typed in all lowercase letters, and attribute values enclosed with double quotation marks. Consistently creating code using this format will not only make your pages easier to debug and validate. For example :

   <img src="images/sample01.jpg" alt="writing sample demonstrating mastery in topic sentences"> is **correct**
   <IMG SRC="images/sample01.jpg" ALT="writing sample demonstrating mastery in topic sentences"> is **incorrect**

<img src=images/sample01.jpg alt=writing sample demonstrating mastery in topic sentences> is **incorrect**

<Img Src=images/sample01.jpg alt="writing sample demonstrating mastery in topic sentences"> is **incorrect**

2. Container tags (tags that are used to mark up chunks of text) should have closing tags. Even though your web browser may display a list item missing its closing tag correctly it can cause problems with CSS down the road. Stand-alone, or empty, tags that do not contain text do not need closing tags. (The <img>, <input>, and <hr> tags are examples of this type of tag).

3. Make appropriate use of hard returns and indents. See my example below to see what a difference this makes:

```
<table><tr><td>Column 1</td><td>Column 2</td></tr></table>
```

Will display identically to the code below, but it should be clear which is easier to read and error-check.

```
<table>
   <tr>
       <td>Column 1</td>
       <td>Column 2</td>
   </tr>
</table>
```

Grading: Although the main goal of this project is to encourage you to synthesize 'book knowledge' into practical knowledge, it does also serve as a measure of your success in CS 125H. As such, most students are highly interested to know what they must do to achieve an A on the project. Please familiarize yourself with the grading rubric I will use to assign points for this project.

The term projects are graded on a scale from five to twenty-five in each of the four categories explained below. Thus, the maximum score for a project would be 100 points. I will use the scale below to separate projects into letter grades.

90 to 100 points	A
78 to 89 points	B
68 to 77 points	C
58 to 67 points	D

	25	20	15	10	5
Design Elements	All of the design elements specified above are integrated meaningfully into the site. Site has a minimum of 4 well-developed pages. All pages clearly relate to the main topic.	All of the design elements specified above are present, but a few do not add meaning to the site. Site has a minimum of 4 pages, and all are reasonably well-developed. One page does not clearly relate to the main topic.	All of the design elements are specified, but a number of them are not meaningfully integrated in the site. The site has 4 pages, but one of which is not well-developed. Two or more pages do not relate to the site topic.	One or two design elements are skipped, or most design elements are not meaningfully integrated into the site. The site has fewer than 4 pages, or the 4 pages that exist do not clearly relate to one another.	More than two design elements are missing. The site has fewer than 4 pages or the 4 pages that exist are all random pages.
Site Organization	CSS and semantic markup elements are used effectively to organize the site. Ordered or unordered lists are used where needed. The navigation effectively guides visitors. All links are active and work properly. The site is completely organized in one folder. There is an images folder, and all images are stored with that folder. If needed, there are folders for sound, video, etc. files. The common styles for each page are located in a centralized, external style sheet, with additional page-specific styles applied with extra stylesheets or embedded styles.	Tables are used when needed. Lists were used somewhat effectively. The navigation is easily followed. All links are active and work properly. The site is completely organized in one folder. There is an images folder, and all images are stored with that folder. If needed, there are folders for sound, video, etc. files. The common styles for each page are located in a centralized, external style sheet, with additional page-specific styles applied with extra stylesheets or embedded styles.	Tables are used, but need some attention. Lists were not used when needed. The site navigation is somewhat confusing. Some links are not working properly. Site files have not been grouped into folders according to type/purpose. Each page has its own external stylesheet, with a good deal of duplication between stylesheets.	Tables were not used when needed. Lists were not used when needed. The site navigation is confusing. Links do not work properly. Site files have not been grouped into folders according to type/purpose. Some pages use an external stylesheet while others only use embedded or local styles for formatting.	There is no clear navigation scheme for the site. Tables and lists were not implemented. There are many broken links. Site files have not been grouped into folders according to type/purpose. Some required files referenced in the code have not been uploaded to the web host. External stylesheets are not used to apply styles. Formatting is applied either through embedded or local styles only.

Presentation	The site is eye appealing and professional in design. Colors are coordinated. Each page loads quickly. Images and/or animation enhance, not detract, from the pages. The site has been spell checked, and is grammatically correct.	The site is easy to read, but the design could use a little more polish to achieve a truly professional look and feel. Each page loads without much delay. Images and/or animation aren't used to their best effect. The site has been spell checked and is grammatically correct.	The design of the website neither enhances nor detracts from the user's experience, but is still appropriate for the web. The colors chosen coordinate, but perhaps are not in tune with the website topic's personality. Page contains a spelling/grammatical error that could have been corrected by spell check.	The site is not easy to view, the colors clash with each other. The site does not load quickly. Images and/or animation tends to overwhelm the visitor. The site has some spelling and/or grammatical errors	The colors are not coordinated and/or make the site difficult to read and navigate. There are missing images or the images and animation completely overwhelm the site content. There are many spelling and/or grammatical errors
Coding	Each page contains standard HTML code and a correct document declaration tag. All of the necessary basic tags are in place. HTML coding has been written using lowercase letters, and quotation marks are present around all attribute values. The code is easy to read. The code is accessible to a variety of browsers and platforms.	Each page contains standard HTML code and a document declaration tag. Some minor HTML element tags are missing, or put in using capital case. Some uneven use of quotation marks is present. The code is fairly easy to read. The code is accessible to a variety of browsers and platforms.	One page uses non-standard HTML code. Some HTML element tags are missing or are improperly nested. Code is cramped, but readable. Some elements that could make code more accessible are missing.	Two pages use nonstandard HTML code. Some pages are missing a document declaration. Some HTML element tags are missing. Lack of adequate spacing and/or uneven capitalization makes HTML code somewhat difficult to read. Some elements that could make code more accessible are missing.	All pages contain non-standard HTML code. Many pages are missing a document declaration. Some major HTML element tags are missing. The code is difficult to read and follow due to sloppy coding practices. Elements that could make code accessible are missing.