Rationale

The current website for COMP1950 has a lot of great content to help students be successful when taking the course. The information on the website is key to the success of the student. We believe that the prime goal for our web-design proposal is to keep it simple and make it easy for the student to find the information they are looking for. Many times, information in previous sessions is needed, but difficult to find again, and our redesign will made it easy for the student to find what they need.

The world of web-design is creative, colorful, and stimulating. We want to bring these factors to the website, so that it is visually pleasing by adding pictures, videos, and other content so that it is interactive as well as informative. We want to showcase the specific skills they will learn on the home page so that students will gain excitement knowing they will be able to do these things once they finish the course.

Students of today use the internet and its resources throughout the day and need the information to be presented in a way that matches the devices they are using. Some students primarily use their smart phone, others an i-pad, and yet other prefer a larger screen such as a laptop or desktop. The website needs to work well using all platforms.

When people use a web-site they scan from left to right and thus we will setup pages in a grid fashion to help them easily digest the content. We will add pictures, background color, and other visually stimulating effects.

We have chosen to have a horizontal menu which will remain at the top when the student scroll past the initial image. An important addition to the header is a search field. This will help a student find the exact content quickly and easily. The menu is simple to use so that students will not be confused by too many navigation choices.

A key page that we are adding is a links page that will be a central hub for students to find internal and external links that will aid them to be successful in this course

**Layout and Design Justification**

Key areas improved on all pages are:

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| **Improvement** | **Description** |
| HTML5 | HTML5 has added tags to further describe the content on the webpage. The code will be cleaner and describe the content more thoroughly. This allows search engines and screen readers to understand the content of the page. Since there are more tags to describe the content then less generic tags are needed, which will make the CSS3 code more understandable and easier to maintain. With more specific tags it is easier to develop a responsive design to work with various screen sizes. |
| CSS3 | Utilizing the Box Model makes it is easier to create a responsive website. We will be implementing the “flexbox/grid” functionality so that the website will look good on all sizes of screens. We have added additional effects to make the website more visually stimulating. |
| JQuery | We will utilize JQuery to add functionality to the website without needing to create it from scratch using Javascript. |
| Fonts | We will use innovative fonts so that the client does not need to have the font installed on their system. |
| Javascript | Using javascript allows the site to become more interactive. |
| Animations | Adding animations displays what is possible and also what will be learned in the course |

**Deliverables**

**Home Page:**

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| **What was changed or added?** | **Improvements Realized** |
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**Lecture Page:**

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| **What was changed or added?** | Improvements Realized |
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**Links Page:**

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| **What was changed or added?** | **Improvements Realized** |
| This is a new page | Central hub for finding helpful information on the website easily and quickly. |
| Javascript accordian functionality on heading areas to close section details | Shows skills attained in course and allows the student to keep the screen clutter free |
| Lecture links | This table has all important subjects that were learned for each lecture and provides links directly to this area of the website. |
| Learning Resources - External | Links to good sites to continue the learning experience. These site will have good examples and futher details about the information discussed in class |
| Most Used Links | This will contain any links that the students use all the time such as the CSS & HTML validator links. |
| Code Examples by Lecture– it would be beneficial to have the examples on the website for easy reference | This will allow the students to easily find examples by lecture and subject area. |
| Learning Resources - Videos | This area will have good quality uTube videos for further learning opportunities. |

**Additional Functionality Proposed, but Not Implemented:**

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| **What is proposed?** | **Improvements Realized** |
| Add a Wiki | Some of the most common information can be pulled from the lecture pages and put into a Wiki for quick reference. |
| Add bookmark functionality | Student can have their most visited pages saved |
| Add a database for easier searchability | Students can search for information in the database using a number of search terms to narrow down the specific information they are looking for. Quick and easy reference. |
| Add a common questions section | Answers to frequent student’s questions can be shared instead of being repeated. |
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