CMIS 410 Final Project Guide

The final project in CMIS is to build a business or organization web site. Each week we will create parts of the building process and site pages. You will submit and share the pages you create each week with me and with your classmates in the discussion boards. Use the feedback to improve your weekly pages and polish your final project. Once you have polished your final pages, you will submit the link in the blackboard assignment folder "final".

This is a very detailed assignment, you need to keep this guide handy and refer to it often. To repeat, make it a habit to go back and read the assignment instructions one more time before submitting the assignments, you may find information that you missed in your initial review.

The Business Idea

You can use almost any idea for your business. If you cannot come up with an idea of your own, then create a site for a small web design business. If you want to discuss your idea before working forward, contact me and we can discuss. Your business needs to be broad enough that you can create a total of four pages. Be as imaginative as you want, this is not a real business – unless you want to create the site for a real business you have an association with. PBL members may consider building this site to meet the requirements for the PBL competition, more information on this competition can be found on the PBL website or from Dr. Sheri Grotrian-Ryan, PBL faculty sponsor.

The Process

In the remaining weeks of this course, you will build your website. For each week there are assignment links for parts of the project. This allows you to stay on track to complete the project, get feedback and obtain weekly points. The discussion boards become a forum for giving and receiving feedback on your evolving project.

Week 3
Create the site outline

Week 6
Create the site layout

Week 7
Create the website logo

Week 10
Create the website storyboard

Week 11
Download/Install the Filezilla FTP software

Week 12
Build the home page – index.html

Week 13
Build Page 2

Week 14
Build Page 3

Build Page 4
Submit the final website
Write the reflection

On the following pages you will find the details for this assignment. Please contact me if you have questions, I am happy to help. There are navigational links within this document.

The Details

Planning

Collecting images (see the pictures and graphics section below)

Save all the images in an images folder

Image names should be short, descriptive, without spaces or capital letters.

Images that are a picture with many colors should be a .jpg file type

Images that are small with large blocks of a few colors should be a .png file type

Links for outside sources

When a user clicks on a

Use the target attribute so your users never lose touch of your site.

Color list – the CH 3 tutorial (see the section below on color theory)

Look for color ideas to use in design.

Stay away from bright, primary and pink colors, review the design color ideas.

Logo – Header image

Your website needs to have a header image or logo for the business. This should be a graphic that announces the name or identity of the site. You can build a header image with various applications, such as Paint or Word. You might also try www.canva.com A simple way to turn an image you build into a single image is to use the Windows snip tool.

File Organization

Your folder name must be your first initial and last name. For example, mine would be **lparriott**. This folder will contain and organize all of the files for your web site. Be sure to put all of your images inside a single image folder. Your folder will contain your html files, one css file and an image folder. For your folder, do not add extra folder layers that are not necessary, as that makes the web address longer and making the navigation work is more difficult. **Do not zip this file to load to FileZilla**

Build the Template

By building a template for your pages, you will create a site with a consistent look and navigation and make it much easier to complete the required four pages. You can build the template with the CSS embedded, but you will need to move it to an external style sheet once you complete the template.html page.

Your template should contain:

o   Header Image – Business Logo

- Navigation
- Content Areas (often content areas are filled with *lorem ipsum* to show sizing)
- Colors
- CSS
- Footer

CSS Style Sheet

You will have at least one style sheet that will link to all of the pages in your website.

Home Page

The entrance to your site is the home page and is always named index.html. The content on this page should be where you grab your user's attention and draw them further into your site. Visit websites you think are good examples to stimulate your thinking process on content ideas.

FileZilla Upload Information

FileZilla (File transfer protocol software) is used to transfer the folder containing your web documents from your computer to the SPS server so your pages became part of the World Wide Web!

It should be **http://bobcatweb.peru.edu/currentyear/*yourfoldername***. Be sure to test the link prior to posting by typing it directly into a browser window. Please do not copy/paste a link to your computer. For example: my link would be **http://bobcatweb.peru.edu/2018/lparriott**

Updating your site: **Each time you update your website, you will need to replace your file on the server**. In FileZilla, right-click your current folder, delete it, then upload the new copy to the server with the same click and drag method you used when posting the original file. **Do not zip your file for upload to FileZilla.**

Please be careful when adding pages to your folder with FileZilla. You can easily drop your folder inside someone else's folder. If you think you may have, go ahead and load your pages correctly. Email me with the name of your files or folder and I will track your duplicates down and delete them.

The login information for FileZilla:
Log into the FTP software from FileZilla that you previous downloaded to your computer.
    The login is:
    Host: **bobcatweb.peru.edu**
    Username: **studentaccess**
    Password: **Bobcat1**

Weekly Assignment Links

Once your weekly pages are complete, load the files to the SPS server with FileZilla and then **post the link for your site** to the correct Blackboard assignment link.

Be sure to submit the link (*not the files*) to the correct assignment link and be careful to post a link directly to the individual page and not just to the index page. **http://bobcatweb.peru.edu/currentyear/*yourfoldername***.

Validation

Each of the pages for your site should validate. Validation errors should be tracked down and fixed. Warnings do not need to be fixed.

HTML Validation: https://validator.w3.org/

CSS Validation: http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/

Your web address

http://bobcatweb.peru.edu/currentyear/*yourfoldername*. Be sure to test your link by typing it directly into a browser to view your page.

Navigation

Your site must have the same navigation (another good reason for building a template) on every page that allows a user to move from any page on your site to another. Please test your links in a browser prior to posting. Your pages should have consistent .html file extensions.

You never want visitors to lose connection with your site, so when posting outside website links, you need to have them open on a new browser tab, add the attribute to the link, target="_blank".

You should have footer contact information on your pages that include a mailto link.

Color Theory

Colors for your design can be very tricky. We all tend to gravitate toward colors we prefer, but in building a business site, you need to gravitate toward a color combination that makes your site attractive to your customers. Novice designers should avoid extensive use of primary colors, bright colors and pink.

If you are looking for inspiration check out this "show and tell for designers" site: https://dribbble.com/

The following site is Adobe Color which can give you some color ideas: https://color.adobe.com/create/color-wheel/. It includes selections for the different methods and rules of color theory.

You can also use the w3schools color picker: http://www.w3schools.com/tags/ref_colorpicker.asp

Linking

Keep your visitors connected to your site. Example of a target attribute for an outside source link:

`<a href="http://www.w3schools.com" target="_blank">Visit W3Schools</a>`

Full information here: http://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_a_target.asp

More link examples: http://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_a_href.asp

Footer Contact Information

The footer on your page should contain contact information for your site. This is created in your template and carries to all of your pages. The contact information should have a mailto: link for your users to be able to click to easily send you an email. You can use a fake email for this. See the link examples:

http://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_a_href.asp

Code Use

You are welcome to use code from our previous assignments. If you borrow code from other sites, you will need to disclose the source **in your HTML document with comment code**. I wish I did not need to say it, but do not copy a website or use a WYSIWYG site. Your site should be your creation and borrowing code is acceptable, as long as you do not overuse that option. Also, if you start from one of our chapter assignments, you must update ALL of the code. Leaving code you do not need is not acceptable, it is an indicator that you do not know what the code does.

Java Script

You are allowed to have scripting on the pages, and there are multitudes of places such as www.dynamicdrive.com where you can use freely available scripts. You can use script to create the most professional looking product you can. Part of being a good web designer is knowing when to stop; as it can be very exciting adding scripts and codes to the pages; almost a "look what I can do" feeling. Just remember that extraneous graphics, animation, etc., can often detract from the overall page or site.

Pictures and Graphics

- Save all the images in a single images folder inside your website folder (yourfoldername)
- If you change image size to make them uniform, be careful not to skew the image when changing the size of your images – reduce or increase by the same percentage for height and width. Change the size with an editor before you put them on your site. Note: Large file images will drastically slow the load time of your page.
- Image names should be short, descriptive, without spaces or capital letters.
- Best file types
    - Images that are a picture with many colors should be a .jpg file type
    - Images that are small with large blocks of a few colors should be a .png file type
- When creating the code for your images, be sure to add attributes for alt.

Feedback through the discussion board

You should review and improve these pages as you receive feedback on them from your instructor and your peers in order to maximize your final points. The objective of this assignment is for you to show what you know. The nice part is that you can improve the pages through the following weeks and then have a fabulous final product.

Please understand, it is vitally important you get the pages done and submitted on time. This will allow me to review and make suggestions. The discussion boards require you to submit a link to your project pages so you can get feedback from your classmates. These have been very popular discussion boards and students find them very helpful. It is helpful to see what someone else is doing and get ideas for your own pages. Please understand that a criticism or suggestion is not a personal attack; we all have different ideas about what looks good and if you do not care for the feedback, you do not have to follow it. This is also an opportunity for you to practice giving and receiving constructive criticism.