Web Portfolio Reflection

For my web portfolio, I wanted to showcase my skills as both an anthropologist and digital designer to potential employers. Although digital design is not necessarily my intended career path, I thought it made the most sense in terms of presenting the abilities I have learned in this class. Both my soundscape narrative and visual argument are included along with my author’s statement and creative processes to demonstrate my creative journey throughout each project. I also included two small sections about my Japanese minor and my pets on my “About Me” page to present my other interests and personality.

I wanted the design of this website to be user-friendly and professional while also retaining some unique creative elements. For this reason, I decided to go with a purple and light green color scheme by incorporating a patterned background image to add texture and color without overpowering the information included on the page. In this way, the page looks professional but still has personality. Information sections are outlined with a purple double border to separate information and the background image. These sections have a white background to improve readability and to separate important information into manageable chunks. Additionally, I used the font “Unica One” for my navigation bar and h1 headings and the font “Syncopate” for sub-headings and other text. Both were found on Google Fonts, and they also add personality to my page by straying from the default fonts used on many websites. Just in case the user’s browser does not support Google Fonts, I also stacked my fonts using a standard sans-serif font as the failsafe. The “Unica One” font also matched the font I used for my logo, which I created using free logo-making software online and incorporated into the navigation bar using a png file. The logo is also the link that leads back to the home page, which I embedded into the logo image to make it easy for users to return to the home page if they desire.

Using the design principle we learned in class, I wanted my page to have a liquid layout that adjusts based on the users’ device and screen size, specifically for mobile and tablet users. When the screen size changes, the navigation bar shrinks and becomes and hamburger icon with a drop-down menu while the rest of the page layout shifts to accommodate the change in screen size. One of the issues I encountered while doing this was that when the navigation bar shrank, the links no longer ran horizontally across the page and the words blurred together. To fix this, I used JavaScript to turn the navigation bar into a hamburger icon after it reached a certain screen size and created a drop-down menu that made it easier for tablet and mobile users to interact with. Thus, each page is able to be presented on various-sized devices, which also aids accessibility and user experience.

Although developing my web portfolio was difficult and time-consuming at times, I feel more confident about the ability to understand HTML and CSS along with the decisions that web developers use when designing a website. When I am browsing web pages online, I notice the time and effort that went into every detail in the website’s design, and now, I have a greater appreciation for the work web designers do. In the future, I would be interested in learning JavaScript as a supplement to the material I learned in this class and to further refine my ability to create content for the web. Overall, after finishing my web portfolio, I feel a sense of accomplishment after all the work I put into it and I can’t wait to share it with others.