

# AQUENT

## GYMNASIUM

RESPONSIVE WEB DESIGN

Lesson 11

# MATERIALS & ASSIGNMENT

## THIS LESSON'S CORE CONCEPTS

1. The skills involved in building responsive sites are useful for custom layouts with responsive typography and fluid grids, but a number of grid systems and frameworks have emerged to help make the process of creating mobile-friendly sites easier. Understanding the fundamentals of responsive HTML, CSS, and JavaScript is useful because it allows you to jump into and understand any responsive system.
2. The difference between a responsive “grid system” and a responsive “grid framework” is that in general a grid system provides methods for creating flexible rows and columns for your layout. Responsive frameworks are often more complex and include a grid system plus additional elements that might include form elements, navigation bars, prototyping assets, and more.
3. In general, the main advantage of all grid systems/frameworks is to make web development faster and easier. However, the specific advantages include: a.) Breakpoints are pre-defined (meaning you don't have to create the media query code for smaller/mobile screens), b.) You only need to learn the syntax the system/framework requires and not the detailed CSS, c.) Common browser compatibility and bugs have already been solved by others, and d.) Responsive systems/frameworks make starting new projects faster and easier.
4. Disadvantages to grid systems: a.) There is typically a learning curve involved with any given system and learning the details requires an investment of time, b.) Grid systems are designed for a wide variety of projects and your project might not require the level of complexity provided by the system, c.) The complexity of a system or framework also translates to extraneous CSS and JavaScript that may result in reduced performance of your site, d.) The standardization of rows and columns within a grid layout can result in generic, uninspired designs and limit your creativity instead of unlocking it, and e.) Because grid systems/frameworks are created by third parties, you are relying on them for updates and/or support and documentation.
5. Most grid systems use very similar techniques and so learning how to use one (such as Twitter Bootstrap) makes it easier to work with another. Typically, you add special CSS class names to your HTML in order to create rows and columns.
6. Grid systems can be used for production, but they are also very popular for rapid prototyping because it is fast and easy to experiment with different responsive grid layouts across different screen sizes. Additionally, certain systems/frameworks include specific assets such as placeholder images or interactive components such as modal windows, allowing you to design your pages earlier within the browser.

## READINGS

- <http://adactio.com/journal/6052/>  
Responsive and Responsible by Scott Jehl
- <http://bradfrostweb.com/blog/post/prioritizing-performance-in-responsive-design/>  
Prioritizing Performance in Responsive Design

## WEBSITES MENTIONED IN THE PRESENTATION

- [www.getskeleton.com](http://www.getskeleton.com)
- <https://github.com/dhg/Cinderblock>
- <http://twitter.github.io/bootstrap/getting-started.html>
- <http://twitter.github.io/bootstrap/scaffolding.html>
- <http://foundation.zurb.com>
- <https://gridsetapp.com/>
- <http://zengrids.com/>

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Quiz
2. Download (or sign up for) one of the following grid systems/frameworks:
  - a.) Twitter Bootstrap (Be sure to use the Responsive version)  
<http://twitter.github.io/bootstrap/getting-started.html>
  - b.) Zurb Foundation  
<http://foundation.zurb.com/>
  - c.) Gridset  
<https://gridsetapp.com/>

The goal of this assignment is to get your hands on one or more of the grid systems and explore its syntax. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- a.) Try duplicating the grid layout of a site you know well: a news site or other familiar page.
- b.) Try to recreate the three-column layout of the example portfolio site we have been using for Maya.
- c.) The most ambitious idea would be to recreate your custom portfolio layout, keeping in mind that this may require a bit of investment of time on your end!