Web Design Basics

Class 4 Assignment

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*PSAM 1028-C CRN: 2805 09/13/2017*

This week’s assignment asks you to layout the pages you made in last week’s schematic diagram assignment using styling rules you define in separate document called a Cascading Style Sheet, more commonly referred to as a *CSS* file.

Begin by making sure your HTML pages are valid and as semantically rich as possible. By rich, I mean your pages are structured using the sematic elements we’ve reviewed in class including: *header*, *article*, *section*, *nav*, *aside*, *footer*, etc.

Where appropriate, add classes to the main elements of your pages to help you target specific content for styling. As an example, in the *CG2 draft site* sample page for today’s session I added a class called *sidebar-thumbnail* to the thumbnail images used in the sidebar content. Using this class I made a styling rule that added a bit of padding and a white border around each image.

Next create an external style sheet document and place it in a directory labeled *CSS* inside your site files folder. Name the style sheet style.css or something similar. Point all your HTML pages to the style sheet by inserting the following link code inside the *head* element of your pages after the page *title* element:

<link rel="stylesheet" href="css/style.css" media="all">

Be sure to change *style.css* to the name of your style sheet document, if necessary.

Using the techniques explained in class and in chapters 7, 8 and 11 of *HTML and CSS,* write styling rules that make your HTML pages match their respective schematic diagrams. Pay particular attention to the explanation of *The Box Model* on pages 276-277.

Start by defining general rules for the site as a whole. These are usually applied to the body element. Assign values for font-family, font-size, width, margin, background-image or background-color. Add rules for heading text (h1-h6) and body content (p).

Next develop styling rules for the main parts of your site from top to bottom:

*Header*

*Navigation*

*Main content*

*Secondary content*

*Footer*

CSS documents can get pretty long so I’d suggest adding commented headings with the title of each section to your CSS document. Something like:

/\* Header style rules /

/\* Navigation style rules \*/

Refer to the sample CSS documents included in this week’s download for some ideas on how to organize your rules.

Once the styling of the text, colors and background images, if any, has been worked out, go back and work on the positioning of the elements. This can be tricky so be sure to re-read chapter 11 of the *HTML and CSS* book for advice on CSS layout properties. The ones to remember for this week are *width*, *float* and *clear*. Also, this won’t apply to everyone, but if you run into problems with a multi-column layout try the *css overflow property*  tip described in class.

Please upload your site files in progress to the week-04 folder of your web site then send me the link via Canvas or email.

As always, please send me note if you have any questions.

For CRN 3787, Section D, Assignment 4 is due 09/26/17 by 12 Noon.

For CRN 2805, Section C, Assignment 4 is due 09/27/17 by 9 AM.

Readings for next Class:

*HTML and CSS: Visual QuickStart Guide (8th Edition)*

*Chapter 9: Defining Selectors*

*Chapter 10: Formatting Text with Styles*

*Chapter 11: Layout with Styles (re-read this important chapter)*

*Chapter 13: Working with Web Fonts (read the section: Using Web Fonts from Google Fonts)*

Supplementary Reading:

*A Practical Guide to Designing for the Web by Mark Boulton*

*Part 5: Layout*