**George Mason University**

**IT 331, Introduction to Web Development I**

**Project Introduction**

Throughout this course, you will be developing a web site, which should be hosted on the Mason cluster server. This is a UNIX server; **Separate instructions are provided on how to get an account and upload your web pages to this server.**

You will have a total of 4 projects to complete on your web site. At the end of the course, you should have a functional and well-designed web site and give a presentation on your work. The web site is a chance for you to demonstrate and apply the skills and techniques covered in each class. Use of these techniques will be evaluated after the due date of each project.

**Project Topic**

First, you will need to pick a theme or topic for your web site which you find interesting and enjoyable. Here are some project ideas, but feel free to create your own:

* A tutoring or encyclopedia type of website or online-quiz (using forms and arrays to hold the answers)
* An interactive website giving information about your fictitious consulting firm.
* An appealing website about your family, your work, sports, or your hobbies.

**Project Rules**

Completion of each project involves having the web pages available to the instructor on or before the due date. You should follow the project requirements as detailed in each project specification document and check the syllabus to confirm the due date for each project.

The fundamental rules governing the projects are:

* The web site must be hosted on the Mason cluster server.
* Since the information will be published on the Web, you must be careful to check the accuracy of your information, spell check and proofread carefully, and you need to be sure that **you do not infringe upon any copyright laws.** The use of text and images must adhere to all Copyright and Fair Use limitations.
* The content must be suitable for all audiences. Content or images that may be misconstrued to be offensive to ANYONE is not acceptable, and the web site will not receive a grade.
* **No copying, plagiarism, or using any existing web page templates.** You are allowed to use outside sources for reference but **do not copy any code**. If any copying or plagiarism occurs, the person or persons involved will receive no credit. They will be treated as not having submitted the project; they could also be reported to the honor code committee.
* Use of any tools, such as Microsoft Expression Web, Adobe Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks and Photoshop, etc. are permitted.
* You should use a Web page HTML validator. The validator from the W3C web site (<http://validator.w3.org/>) is recommended. All pages in your web site must pass the validator with the use of an **HTML5** Doctype. This of course implies that the proper meta information (document type, character encoding information, etc.) is present in every page of your site. The use of a CSS validator is optional.
* Projects are to be completed by **11:00PM** of the due date. **Any modifications after the due date are prohibited!** If a student has not completed the project by the due date, the student has the choice of receiving a grade based on the work completed to that point, or receiving a 10% penalty for each day (or part of a day) it takes to complete the assignment. In these cases, the project is not considered complete until the instructor is notified by the student of the completion of the project.

**Project Submission**

For each project you need to provide a description/documentation of your work saved in an **MS Word** document, including the following components (a student example of the documentation is provided in the “Projects” folder):

* the **URL** to your web site;
* the file names of the pages that are included in the current site, and a short description of each page;
* the file names of the pages that have been newly created or modified since last project;
* a detailed explanation of how **each** requirement (as listed in the project specification document) is met AND where the associated feature/component is located;
* any special features that you may want the instructor to pay attention to, or anything else that you may want to explain to the instructor.

Submit the document via Blackboard using the Assignments Tool (“Course Tools” 🡪 “Assignments” 🡪 follow the appropriate link).