Here’s what I have learned at Udacity!

Internet, html and css.

Hyper Text Markup Language.

Cascading Style Sheet.

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To communicate with computers and make them do whatever is needed, we use programming languages; these have a different set of rules (syntax) than natural languages, to avoid imprecisions, because computers are “silly”, so they need precise instructions.

Internet is a network of computers, they communicate with each other through a protocol called http, and they transfer files from one to another. Most important transferred files are in html format, but they can transfer any kind of file.

Html gives to web pages the structure; the elements in it are tree-like, meaning that there is a branching pattern, usually called DOM. CSS is a different language, used to give style to the web sites.

Hyper Text Markup Language.

The basic element in html is the tag; the tag format is: <opening-tag> content <closing-tag>. Some tags have also attributes, like class, span, id.

In html everything is considered a box, and some boxes are inside bigger boxes (the branching pattern). There are tags that make this boxes, called block tags; but there are also tags that give structure to elements in the html without splitting it from the square in which it is, and are called inline elements.

Span is used to select an inline element, while div forms blocks. Class is an attribute used for multiple alike elements, while id gives name to one element and must not be repeated in the same html (css allows it, but javascript will have troubles and is not considered valid).

It is a good idea to name classes in a way that whoever is reading the code can have a good idea of what he can find in that block.

Cascading Style Sheet.

Css goes down through every element (Cascading) and applies the most specific rule to it. In the computer sciences, there is an abstract concept called inheritance; is a mechanism by which properties asigned to an element are applied to itself and its “descending” elements. Generally speaking, text properties are inherited, box related properties are not inherited. This idea is important, since it avoids repetition.

In css we use the selectors, which are called so because they permit to choose the element for style application. They are composed by the name of the tag and brackets: p{} , div{}. The attributes can also be used as selectors using dot and then the name of the attribute (for example, the class name) and then the brackets: .description {}. The property chosen to be changed is written between the brackets in the way: attribute colon value semicolon.

There are three methods to include style:

To include CSS in the html head, using the style tag.

To link a css file as a separate stylesheet, using the link tag in the html head.

To write the style inline as a tag attribute, which is not a preferred method.

Every element is considered part of a box, and every box is modeled as having, from outside to inside: margin, border, padding, content. Each of these can be modified to give the needed style.