

CSCB20 Report

By: Usama Khan and Mike Yang

Prof. Abbas Attarwala

Question: What issues and problem did you notice with some of the previous websites?

There are many issues on the websites shown that we looked at and tried our best to learn from. In one of the A48 websites, we noticed it was extremely bareboned, no color, no arrangements done to the text to make it visually appealing. A lot of the content seemed extremely clustered and it was painful to just look at. More bordering would've helped and a background that wasn't so white.

Mobile viewing was also a key issue, as when I adjusted the window to be smaller, most of the page was cut-off, meaning I had to scroll left and right to access the content I needed.

On the other A48 website, it was a clean look, however a lot of the fonts and sizing weren't done correctly. It had a lot of the FAQ questions, but nothing really related to the course material itself. This website, however, had an extremely responsive mobile view and adjusted when the window decreased in size.

The CSC309 website was amazing however, with amazing structure and interactivity applied to it. We decided to follow the principles in this website when going forward with ours, although extremely different as well.

Question: How did you address these issues in your redesigned course website?

Mobile viewing was a huge issue, as we never really tested our website for mobile viewing throughout the creating process. As we got towards the end, we realized we needed to fix it. We realized next time, it would be better to think about all viewing screens at the beginning so we wouldn't have to go back and do it all over again.

Design and structure applied on the website was also considered. We tried to apply a simplistic, centered, design while sticking to a theme of a few shades of blue. Looking at previous websites, there was a lot of separation and design elements missing, and so we made this a focus when doing the mock-ups to ensure it was pleasing from the start. It was extremely difficult at times to get the padding, margins, and content in exactly the right places. However, we knew visuals were not to be sacrificed and we continued to make sure we had our mock-ups down to the highest accuracy we possibly could.

Question: What are some challenges that you and your team member faced? How did you go about addressing these challenges?

Coordination was an issue at first. We were both working and kept exchanging files back and forth, making it impossible to track versions and keep our downloads clean. We then decided to use GitHub and uploaded our final working version into there.

Everybody codes differently, and we certainly had different styles of coding. This posed an issue as we would code different pages, and when trying to combine work or add on to each other, we would get lost and frustrated with each other's code used as we didn't understand new things done. Furthermore, we would try to make each other's code more efficient and improve the pages to what we thought was the best design. This became problematic however, as the website needed to stay consistent and we had to agree on a style.

The way we combated this was by making a theme for each site – the menu, color, footing, and we would then split the main content with our own styles. Our CSS files for different pages became different, other than the main parts. However, we both got to complete the content based on our liking, while meeting the consistency requirement.

Creating mock-ups that were realistic was also difficult, as we had unrealistic goals that we wanted, however we realized weren't exactly possible with our coding skill levels. Therefore, we had to compromise on making it a nice, clean design that wasn't too complicated. This worked out in the end, as we realized simplicity did end up being easier to read and navigate in the long run.

We also had a few disagreements on what the requirements of the actual assignment were. We didn't want to lose marks, at the same time we didn't want to do too much more than what was required. We went back and forth for quite a while before realizing we could simply just go to the TA's and ask for their assistance, which we did.

Overall, we really enjoyed the process of this website. I was extremely fun and rewarding, due to the challenges faced. It also taught us how to work in a team in a technical setting, making us leverage available tools to improve our efficiency. We're excited to make an even more complicated website for Assignment 3.