Course Syllabus

Course Name

Designing for Web Standards II

Contact Information

Catalog Course Code:	WDD 321
Three-Letter Course Abbreviation:	DWS2
Instructor:	Kevin Imhoff
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Hours:	Office hours may vary from month to month. Please email me for the most accurate schedule and appointments.

Course Description

Designing for Web Standards II continues the process of creating functional, standards-based content for the Internet. Students will learn how to use CSS and other standards to enhance web pages easily and effectively. This course explores standards-based design for a slimmer, faster, and more flexible approach to designing for the web.

Course Materials

- Laptop
- Text Editor
- FTP Client
- Adobe Creative Suite

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Understand the Cascade mechanism in CSS by defining its components and functions
- Convert fixed width web pages to become responsive to varying device resolutions
- Continue learning how to manipulate formatting of visual elements
    - Identify and use elements of the CSS Box Model
    - Explore the "document flow"
    - Identify the differences between static, relative, absolute, and fixed positioning schemas
- Learn advanced CSS to alter page layout
    - Use the positioning and float properties to create simple layout
    - Use the float property to create a multi-columned page layout
    - Use the float property to transform unordered lists of navigation links into a horizontal navigation bar
- Create engaging user interface elements
    - Enhance a form and form inputs with CSS
    - Enhance a table with CSS
    - Examine upcoming CSS3 features
- Use frameworks to guide the execution of more sophisticated designs and larger scale efforts
- Understand and apply CSS3 transforms/transitions
- Understand and apply the concepts of accessibility and usability as they pertain to styling web sites using a framework
- Learn to run diagnostics on a web page to troubleshoot
    - Recognize browser support for different positioning schemas
    - Troubleshoot DOM elements using Firebug
    - Identify display issues caused by different browser bugs
- Create style sheets for alternate media types
    - Learn how to build style sheets that are sensitive to user needs when printing
    - Consider mobile users and how web pages may need to function on the various devices
    - Use Responsive Web Design techniques to design for alternate media

COURSE OUTCOMES

- Have an intermediate knowledge of the current CSS specifications

- Ability to generate a standards based, functional, usable web sites
- Learn to build responsive websites
- Troubleshoot common symptoms caused from coding errors
- Design for multiple browser landscapes to ensure your web site displays correctly cross platform

General Education Component

Designing for Web Standards II is a continuation of DWS1. This month students begin to code for the web using advanced techniques for modern displays and mobile devices. Having a solid foundation in mathematics allows students to more easily grasp the logic and semantics of coding. The College Mathematics course will aid the student when creating absolute and relative width layouts for their web sites. Creation and structuring of web content is a critical ability. Courses in English Composition will enable students to effectively communicate the content of their websites in an engaging manner. Designing Computer Graphics and Advanced Computer Graphics courses teach fundamental software skills that provide the groundwork students will need when entering Designing for Web Standards. These skills will then be relied upon to design and layout their web sites.

Degree Connection

Designing for Web Standards 2 begins during the students' seventh month of the WDD program. The course prepares students for a career in front-end web design and development. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to create semantic web sites that follow current web standards. This course will prepare students for the Web Standards course which follows DWS2. Most courses throughout the program will utilize HTML and CSS. Students in the Final Project courses will certainly depend on a solid background with HTML and CSS when the time comes to create a project that is the sum of their learning and efforts of the Web Design and Development degree program.

Industry Connection

DWS2 will give students intermediate-level skills with HTML, CSS, Photoshop, and Illustrator that are rooted in best practices, validation, testing, compatibility, and performance. Students who successfully complete the course will be able to achieve entry-level positions as front-end web designers. HTML and CSS are the building blocks of the web regardless of the specific career path chosen.

Research Component

Web programming languages update frequently, thus students will be encouraged to keep up with forward-focused technology like CSS3 and HTML5. By conducting research into these areas, students are better prepared to adopt best practices of the future while leveraging tomorrow's technologies today. Networking is a significant method for conducting research in this industry, if not the best method. Students learn about upcoming events and conferences, both local and abroad, to provide them opportunities to network with professionals in the industry.

Additional Resources

The following books are great resources to further the students' education in the web standards area of the industry.

- CSS, The Definitive Guide, 3rd Edition, by Eric Meyer
- Responsive Web Design, by Ethan Marcotte
- Learning Responsive Web Design, by Clarissa Peterson
- HTML and CSS: Design and Build Websites, by Jon Duckett

Topics Covered

- CSS Syntax and Application
- Inheritance
- Specificity
- The Cascade
- Visual Formatting
- CSS Box Model
- Page Layout with Floats and Positioning
- Creating Interface Components
- Background and Navigation Models and Matrixes
- Print and Handheld Style sheets
- Bug Fixes, Error Handling, Troubleshooting and Workarounds
- Responsive Web Design
- CSS Frameworks
- CSS Preprocessors
- Transitions and Transforms

Learning Activities

Reading and Video Activities

Students will be assigned supplemental reading and videos throughout the month. Due to the quick pace the industry moves, assignments can vary from month to month. Students can expect a diverse reading/video experience from online articles and publications.

Projects

Each week there is a project that compliments the material covered during the corresponding lecture.

During the labs, students will build their projects. Students receive reference documentation that provides instruction and guidance towards delivering the expected web site build.

Grade Weights

Project 1	20%
Project 2	25%
Project 3	25%
Project 4	20%
GPS	10%
Total	100%

Strategies for Successful Learning

- As with any class, taking notes, asking questions, and participating during lecture are invaluable learning tools for every student.
- Make time to visit the local bookstores in the area. Reading from books other than those provided during the course will significantly propel you ahead in your learning.
- As with reading discussed above, there is a plethora of video learning modules available through www.lynda.com that provide an excellent source of current, accurate information.
- More often than not, students don't ask for help when they really need to. Don't wait until it is too late. When the students finds themselves falling behind during lectures or lab assignments, it is imperative they notify the Course Director so that immediate action can be taken to elevate the student back to where they need to be for success in the course.

Course-Specific Rubrics

The course rubrics are always subject to change based on the discretion of the course director. The rubrics can be located here: Course Rubrics