# OWLit: Olin Web Literacy (and Design) Syllabus

**Website:** http://olinweblit.github.io          **Class Email:** olinweblit@lists.olin.edu

## Course Description:

- This Independent Study is a chillaxing beginners course that will help you set up on online portfolio on the web you are not ashamed to put on your resume, and learn how to make awesome websites. We will give you a solid understanding of the web, a concept of good website design, and a strong foundation so that pursuit in future web development endeavors will be a breeze.
- Learn how to use HTML/HTML5, CSS/CSS3, and Javascript, but other awesome stuff like jQuery and github.
- Develop skills required in other Olin classes like:
  - POE (website is required),
  - HFID (for E:C/Design majors),
  - Software Design (want your final SoftDes project to be online?).
- Making work you can show with a heavy focus on design, both what your users see and how you write it.

## Goals:
- Students will have working knowledge of how the web works (server requests, web page rendering, web technology stacks)
- Students will have foundational skills in html, css, and javascript
- Students will be able to qualitatively assess the interaction design of a website
- Students will have introductory mockup skills (wireframes and sitemaps) for web pages including Photoshop
- Students will have basic version control skills (Git)

## Objectives:
- Students will construct and release a personal online portfolio website going through the process of creating mockups, qualitatively assess the interaction design, develop code for the site, and releasing the site via a hosting service.
- Students will use the GitHub version control service to store their code for the course.
- Students will qualitatively assess and critique the interaction design of a public website.

## Instructors:
Kai Austin – kai.austin@students.olin.edu
Joe Gibson – joseph.gibson@students.olin (off campus)

**Ninjas:**
 James Nee
 Cory Dolphin
 Julian Ceipek
 Madison May
 William Saulnier


**Pre-requisites: NONE**


**Grading: PASS/FAIL**
- Assignments are cumulative, so do not fall behind.
- Final Project will be a check-/check/check+


**Tentative Schedule:**

| Class Number | Goal |
|---|---|
| 1. 1-21 | Teach that every website uses HTML, CSS, and maybe JS. Show off web inspector -- mess with sites. Give examples of portfolio sites. <br> http://infiniteammo.ca <br> http://worrydream.com <br> http://www.lindadong.com <br> http://www.awwwards.com/websites/portfolio/ <br><br> Create a "hello world" webpage and open it in a browser. |
| 2. 1-24 | Discuss clients vs. servers and what exactly happens when you type a url into a browser. <br><br> Set up abtana or sublime (or text editor of choice). <br> Set up github. |
| 3. 1-28 | Work with the range of html elements (<p>, <div>, <img>, <span>, <a>, <input>, etc.) and introduce inline css styling. |
| 4. 1-31 | Teach overview of css (how cascading works, ids and classes, hex codes, common attributes, positioning). <br><br> Put together a basic portfolio page using the html and css topics covered. |
| 5. 2-4 | CSS style techniques: common css idioms- the good, the bad, and the ugly. |
| 6. 2-7 | Homework: Prepare 3 project entries and your resume to be included in your portfolio site. |

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| | Introduce wireframes and site maps. Sketch out project page for portfolio. Setup a full site structure in a directory. |
| 7. 2-11 | Portfolio work day. |
| 8. 2-14 | DEADLINE: first draft of portfolio site done |
| 9. 2-18 | Olin Monday, no class |
| 10. 2-21 | Introduction to javascript and jquery, and javascript's role on the webpage. Debugging in the console, YAY<br>Show off how to do things like fades in the Web console, on a page that uses JQuery. |
| 11. 2-25 | What is the DOM? How can javascript help me deal with that ugly mess? Working with events (on click, on focus, etc.) |
| 12. 2-28 | Manipulating the page with javascript. |
| 13. 3-4 | What fun javascript libraries exist?<br>Lightbox.js<br>D3.js |
| 14. 3-7 | Introduce interaction design as a problem. What are some sites with bad interaction design? What are some sites with good interaction design? Homework: TBA Readings from HFID |
| 15. 3-11 | More about interaction design! |
| 16. 3-14 | Exercise: evaluate the interaction design of your portfolio site. |
| 17. 3-18 | Spring break, no class |
| 18. 3-21 | Spring break, no class |
| 19. 3-25 | Start final project (possible projects include: making a kickass portfolio site, combined webapp project with software design, other site of choice?, parallax site) |
| 20. 3-28 | Web and mobile- what's the difference? Project time |
| 21. 4-1 | Project time |

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| 22. 4-4 | Milestone 1: Wireframes and sitemap design review |
| 23. 4-8 | Project time |
| 24. 4-11 | Project time |
| 25. 4-15 | Project time |
| 26. 4-18 | Milestone 2: semi-functional site design review |
| 27. 4-22 | Project time |
| 28. 4-25 | Project time |
| 29. 4-29 | Final project due. Demos!!! |