Course Description
This course focuses on the construction of a web site. Students will learn how web sites work, and how to design good
web sites. Students will be provided with free web space where they can design their own sites. This web space will be
available even after the course ends.
The course will not be conducted using an application package to generate pages. Instead, students will be taught how to
hand-code the pages. The emphasis is on the use of standard compliant HTML 4.01 and CSS level 2.0. Validity control
will be an integral part of the composition process. Students are allowed whatever tool they wish to use to create their
sites, but final project sites must be standards compliant.
In addition, the course will cover the base ground of background knowledge that is required to understand how the web
really works. Students will listen to presentations about http and URIs, as well as on the apache web server.
Finally students will be introduced to the subject of information architecture.

Course objectives
After taking this course students

• they will be able to interact with a UNIX based server for storage and retrieval of pages;
• they will understand fundamental concepts of http;
• they will have sufficient knowledge of HTML in order to create simple pages;
• they will have sufficient knowledge of CSS in order to create simple style sheets;
• they will have been introduced to Uniform Resource Identifiers;
• they will have see the main configuration options of the apache web server;
• they will have a grounding in information architecture

Prerequisites
There are no other formal prerequisites for this course. However this course is not suitable for technophobes. Students
should be familiar with the World Wide Web, and should be able to use a MS Windows computer, i.e. click on an icon to
run a program. Students should also be familiar with basic concepts of computer hardware and software, concepts like
files, memory, as well as an understand of the Internet and of client/server architecture. Everything that goes beyond
that will be explained in class or by personal interaction with the instructor. No prior knowledge of HTML and CSS is
assumed.

Instructor
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The class on 2003–05–13 will be instructed by Jeremiah C. Trinidad.

Class structure
Classes will be held in the computing lab of the Palmer School. Each class will have some presentation by the instructor. However a significant part of class time students will work directly with their computers under the supervision of the instructor.

Class details:

0 2003–05–12, 9:00 to 16:00  introduction to the course
1 2003–05–13, 9:00 to 16:00  introduction to HTML
2 2003–01–14, 9:00 to 16:00  introduction to CSS
3 2003–01–15, 9:00 to 16:00  information architecture
4 2003–01–16, 9:00 to 16:00  URIs, http, and Apache

Students
Serena Brooks¹
Mary Cummo²
Brian Debus³
Lisa Gerety⁴
Garrison Lutz⁵
Patricia Novak⁶
Werner Sbashnik⁷
Andrew Story⁸
Lourdes Torres⁹
Lisa Zubiller¹⁰

Readings
There are literally tons of books on HTML and CSS around, choose one that you like. Castro (2002) is a widely used book for beginners. Werbach (2002) is a good online source. Morville and Rosenfeld (2002) is a good book on information architecture.


Students
Assessment
The course will be assessed through the student’s ability to build a web site. The site must validate against the strict or loose version of the HTML 4.01 specification. The site should provide an information source about a topic, though it need not to be comprehensive. The total amount of information contained should roughly be equivalent to a conventional student essay.

References

¹http://dlib.info/home/serena/ssa
²http://dlib.info/home/mary/tarts.html
³http://dlib.info/home/brian/brian.html
⁴http://dlib.info/home/lisag/pathfinder.html
⁵http://dlib.info/home/glutz/
⁶http://dlib.info/home/pj/title.html
⁷http://dlib.info/home/werner/mainpage.html
⁸http://dlib.info/home/drew/home.html
⁹http://dlib.info/home/lourdes/big.html
¹⁰http://dlib.info/home/lisaz/kids.html


