Welcome to the homepage for Introduction to Website Design.

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Course Description

Designing web sites involves coordinating a lot of fairly disparate talents and resources. Graphic elements, clean code, server resources, writing and interface design are all required of a successful web site, and the site designer needs to effectively marshal all those resources and skills in order to create something people can use. There’s not enough time in this class (and likely no real professional motivation on your part) to turn you into a good coder/graphic designer/writer/sysadmin/interface designer, but we will make a genuine effort to become better informed in each of those situations in an attempt to become better decision makers.

The work of this course will revolve largely around making good decisions about all these things. To that end, we’ll be discussing the theory behind linking a lot of pieces of information together, what people like to see on screens, and what keeps UNIX-based OSes from choking on your magnum opus.
HU 2650: Introduction To Website Design

Assignments and Grading

There will be three major assignments in this course:

1. Information Space Map/Presentation
2. Page Critique and Redesign
3. Design and Implementation Plan (Team)

Besides these three major assignments, you’ll be responsible for several written responses and critiques, layout coding exams and "page autopsies" where you’ll assess how a given page's design works. We won’t spend a lot of time reading in this course, but you can pretty safely plan to spend a couple hours per week surfing the web and writing about what you find.

Weights toward final grades will shape up thusly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of final</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Space Map/Presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page Critique and Redesign</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Design and Implementation Plan</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day-to-Day Work</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Activity and Engagement</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
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Policies

**Being a jerk:** Students and instructors in this class will not be jerks. This means everyone will fulfill their responsibilities as best they are able without creating an unproductive, unsafe or unfair environment for themselves or others. Jerks will find themselves first warned, then asked by the instructor to adjust their behavior counterjerkward. Any jerk failing to make the necessary adjustments will not be included or welcome in class.

**Attendance and participation:** Students are responsible to be active attendants and participants in class. That responsibility can't be executed if students don't attend or don't participate. For this reason, frequent or regular unexcused absences will negatively affect final grades via the Activity and Engagement part of your grade. Unexcused absences are when a student isn't present or active for a majority of the class period without making arrangements with the instructor PRIOR to that class period.

**Technology:** This course will rely heavily on computers and the Internet to produce, share and hand in the work we do. Since you know that in advance, problems with technology (including email, lab machines, removable media and the Internet) are expected to be resolved before they're problems for the class and are not a viable excuse for late or incomplete work.

**Timeliness:** Late assignments will not be accepted without prior arrangements or reasonable demonstration of extenuating circumstances.

**Academic Integrity:** Cases violating the university's expectations for academic integrity will be pursued vigorously and penalized to the fullest reasonable extent of the university's policy. Examples of such cases include:

- passing off the work or writing of another as your own,
- and inappropriate collaboration with another student or individual

**Revision:** Students are encouraged to revise their work, though resubmitting revised work for further evaluation or grade change is only possible at the discretion of the instructor. The instructor may also revise the syllabus throughout the semester, with proper and reasonable notification of the change.

**Peer Review:** A big part of practicing writing is reading and talking about writing, and we will therefore do peer review on every piece of writing or design done in this class. Active and serious participation in this process is necessary and is a part of our grading system.

**Group Work:** You will not always be working alone in this class. When assigned to work with a group, students are expected hold up their fair share of the work load. I will not make it my job to police good conduct in group work situations, but I will pursue reports of slacking, slave-driving and disappearance in accordance with the rule against being a jerk. In some situations, your groups will be asked to evaluate members' performance, and this will have an affect on final grades assigned for group work.

**Incompletes:** Nobody gets an incomplete. Failure to complete the work of the course during the term of the course is failure to pass the course.

**Caveat:** All these policies are enforced at the discretion of the instructor. Since he may not be a jerk policies are up for discussion (though not debate) any time they become relevant. Natural disaster, family crisis, arrest, imprisonment and
grave illness are examples of relevant topics for discussion in course policy matters.