LIS901N

Webmastering: the static web site

2003–01–18

See http://openlib.org/home/krichel/courses/lis901nn03i for the latest online version of this file.

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 standard 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. 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. 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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Class structure
Classes will be held in the Electronic Resource Center at the Bobst Library. Each class will have some presentation by the instructor. However a majority of time the class will work directly with their computers under the supervision of the instructor.
Class details:

0	2003–01–12, 13:30 to 17:30	introduction to the course
2	2003–01–13, 9:30 to 17:30	introduction to HTML
3	2003–01–17, 9:30 to 17:30	introduction to CSS
4	2003–01–18, 10:30 to 18:30	information architecture
5	2003–01–19, 13:30 to 17:30	URIs, http, and Apache

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.
HTML 4.01 is defined in Raggett, Le Hors, and Jacobs (1999). CSS level 2 are defined in Bos, Lie, Lilley, and Jacobs (1998). http is defined in Fielding, Gettys, Mogul, Frystyk, Masinter, Leach, and Berners-Lee (1999). URLs are defined in Berners-Lee, Masinter, and McCahill (1994), but that definition was updated in Berners-Lee, Fielding, and Masinter (1998). MIME types are documented in IANA (2001). The documentation of apache is online at http://www.apache.org.

Students
Sarah Funke
Melissa Jacobs
Nancy Bobrek
Ann Matsuuchi
Denise Ambrosait
Jeremiah Trinidad

Assessment
A mid-term exam will be conducted at the start of the third session, this will count for 30% of the grade. The remainder will come from a web site that the students will build. The site should provide an information source about a topic, tough it need not to be comprehensive. The total amount of information contained should roughly be equivalent to a conventional student essay.

References

Berners-Lee, Tim, Roy T. Fielding, and Larry Masinter (1998). Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax. RFC 2396 available at http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt.

Berners-Lee, Tim, Larry Masinter, and Mark McCahill (1994). Uniform Resource Locators (URL). RFC 1738 available at http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1738.txt.

Bos, Bert, Håkon Wium Lie, Chris Lilley, and Ian Jacobs (1998). Cascading Style Sheets, level 2. available at http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-CSS2.

Castro, Elizabeth (2002). *HTML for the World Wide Web, Fifth Edition with XHTML and CSS: Visual QuickStart Guide*. Peachpit Press. described at http://www.cookwood.com/html/.

Fielding, Roy T., James Gettys, Jeffrey C. Mogul, Henrik F. Frystyk, Larry Masinter, Paul J. Leach, and Tim Berners-Lee (1999). Hypertext Transfer Protocol – HTTP/1.1. RFC 2616 available at http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.pdf.

IANA (2001). Media Types. available at http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/.

Morville, Robert and Louis Rosenfeld (2002). *Information Architecture for the World Wide Web*. O'Reilly. described at http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/infotecture2/.

Raggett, Dave, Arnaud Le Hors, and Ian Jacobs (1999). HTML 4.01 Specification. available at http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/.

Werbach, Kevin (2002). Bare Bones Guide to HTML. available at http://werbach.com/barebones/.