Designing and Building Interactive Websites

WHAT

This course will give you the knowledge and skills to design professional-quality websites for business, entertainment, or personal uses. There are no prerequisites other than a basic familiarity with computers and an interest in learning.

HOW

Developing a website involves delving into design and technology. We will explore both aspects of the process to learn how to create websites that are both functional and attractive.

There will be a series of short assignments leading to a final project, for which you will build a small but functional website, with the possibility to work in small teams. There will be flexibility in the topic for the final project, allowing you to explore subjects that interest you.
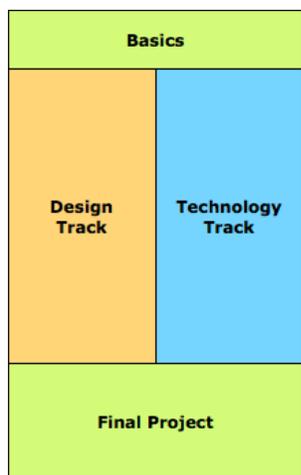
WHY

In today's online world, websites are <u>the</u> essential medium for communication and information in business, entertainment, education, government, and almost any other aspect of life you can think of.

Learning how to construct a website is valuable for many reasons: it's a very marketable skill, valuable knowledge for your own needs, and useful for a better understanding of how websites work. At a minimum, after this course, you can be a smarter consumer of online information.

DETAILS

Because the field of digital media involves both design and technology, we will explore the practice of web design in two parallel tracks.

In the design track, you will learn about dealing with clients, understanding their needs, developing project ideas, mocking up designs, communicating your concepts, testing and usability, and presenting your solutions. In this track, you will mostly be using a web design tool and content management system (CMS) called WordPress.

In the technology track, you will learn how websites function and are constructed, the technical work to create pages and sites, and some of the languages and tools for making them (like HTML and CSS). For this track, most of the work will be done using the web page editor DreamWeaver.

There will be a series of short assignments, typically one per week during the semester. Assignments will be due the following Monday, but you will have time during class to work on them, in order to use the computers and required software.

At the end of the course, the two tracks will come together and you will use your combined knowledge from both to design and build a small, working website. Teams of two or three students can be formed to collaborate on the project.

GRADES

Grades will be based on the three components shown in the chart opposite.

Assignments	60%
Final Project	25%
Professionalism	15%

There will be opportunities to earn extra credit for optional reading, writing, design, or presentation projects of relevance to the course subject matter. Professionalism points will be earned by a variety of leadership, collaboration, and participation activities.

The new Seattle Public School 11-point system for high school grades is in effect this year (with plus and minus grades).

COURSE WEBSITE

Additional information about this course can be found on the course website. I intend to use the site, with its blog for announcements, as the main source of all assignments, reference materials, and communications.

I think this will be a powerful way to support your learning, in addition to being convenient for everyone (students, parents, and teacher).

You can find the course site at this link: **http://rooseveltcs.org/courses/web-design/**.

Please bookmark it and I'll see you online!

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