

CS 101 Web Site Construction, Fall 2008 SYLLABUS

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Office Hours: http://cs.nmu.edu/~jeffhorn/daily_schedule.html

Textbook (required): *Web Development & Design Foundations with XHTML* (4th Ed.) by Terry Felke-Morris, available in Campus Bookstore (web site: <http://www.aw.com/felke>)

CS101 Course Description

SECTION:	CS 101-2	CS 101-3
Meeting Times	4:00-5:40pm MW	4:00-5:40pm TR
Classroom	WS 2901	WS 2901
CRN	81278	81329

Prerequisites: none!

Our web page: <http://cs.nmu.edu/~jeffhorn/Classes/CS101/Fall2008/>

(I will use the web page EXTENSIVELY, posting everything I can up there as soon as possible. This includes all electronic forms of handouts, assignments, solutions, sample tests, etc. Also I will post announcements, links to interesting, topic-related sites, etc. So please check our page regularly! At the very least, twice a week.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

CS 101 is designed to teach students the fundamental concepts behind the enabling technologies of the world-wide web, including computer programming, network protocols, browser-server interaction, mark-up languages, procedural languages, file serving, data serving, and human-computer interaction. By learning these concepts via hands-on, implementation projects, students should develop an intimate understanding of human-computer, computer-computer, and human-human communications and how the three types of interaction work together on the world-wide web.

TOPICS:

See the course description in the NMU Undergraduate Bulletin; link above. Basically, we will be learning how to construct web site from scratch. We will not use any tool more sophisticated than a text editor, so that we can work with programming languages such as HTML and Javascript directly. This approach will give us full control over, and complete understanding of, the web pages that we create.

GRADING:

50% Assignments (mostly web pages and programs).
20% Exams
20% Final exam, comprehensive.
10% Instructor's discretion

Late Policy: For programs and homeworks, 5% off for each day late (counting only days that the university is open; e.g., **not** weekends or snowdays). But of course I cannot accept them after solutions are handed out! As for exams, those cannot be made up except under the most severe and extenuating emergencies! Don't take a chance if you don't have to! (If we have "enough" assignments and/or quizzes, I will drop the lowest grade in that category.)

COMPUTING FACILITIES:

Hardware: NMU Linovo *ThinkPads* or Apple *iBooks*, *MacBooks*, or *iMacs*.

Software: A text editor (e.g., NotePad, WordPad, or TextPad) to serve as a program editor, and a Web browser to run the programs, and an FTP client to transfer web page files to a web server.

PLATFORM:	<i>IBM ThinkPad running MS Windows</i>	<i>Apple MacBook running Mac OS X</i>
Text Editor	<p>Obtaining TextPad (optional; WordPad* or Notepad* are just fine...)</p> <p>Use a web browser to view http://www.textpad.com/. Click on download. This should display a page that gives a choice of obtaining version 5.1 of TextPad with an English only interface. Obtain this software. Run the downloaded ".exe" file (by double clicking the file on your hard drive). Follow the instructions, and a TextPad icon should show up in your Start/All Programs menu.</p>	<p><u>TextWrangler</u></p> <p>Go to here and download the ".dmg" file. Drag it into the Applications folder.</p>
WebBrowser	MS Internet Explorer*, or NetScape , Mozilla Firefox*, etc.	Safari*, or NetScape , FireFox, Opera , etc.
FTP Client	WS FTP*, or WinSCP , FileZilla , etc.	Fetch *
<p>*This software is part of the NMU disk image for this computer platform, and so should already be listed in the Start/AllPrograms menu (Windows) or in _____ (Macs).</p>		

DISABILITY SERVICES

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office by: coming into the office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock; calling 227-1700; or e-mailing disserv@nmu.edu. Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.

This course satisfies the Formal Communication Studies requirement.

These courses are designed to introduce students to the ways in which information and ideas are expressed using a communication system other than English. Such courses should foster the student's ability to conceptualize and communicate in an orderly, rational manner. Characteristics of a communication system include: 1) possession of a grammar; 2) operation from an established set of rules; 3) reasoning properties such as deduction, inference drawing and problem solving. This includes courses in languages and those in which the central focus of the course is on statistics, computers or formal logic.

LAPTOP (and mobile device) CLASSROOM USE POLICY

As a computer scientist I am of course devoted to mobile computing and communication devices (that is, *gadgets*). However, this course involves some deep concepts concerning the nature of computation, information, and communication, and indeed even human nature. My experience is that most people, myself most especially, cannot be expected to really grasp these concepts in the classroom without long periods of unbroken attention. As much as I value electronic-based multi-tasking (and I do think that we need to multi-task throughout the modern day), I have now come to the conclusion that certain insights into the universe cannot be conveyed while multi-tasking. Period.

Therefore, my policy is to allow laptop use during certain portions of the class period, as I announce them. So there will be times, every class meeting, when I will demand that all laptop covers be closed (at least lowered so that they cannot be seen by anyone). Such times will last perhaps 20-30 minutes, after which students will be allowed to open up and use their laptops for class exercises or lab work (the current assignment). If a student absolutely needs to use his or her laptop for note-taking during the "deep lectures", then he or she can request individual permission from me.

As for cell phones, PDAs, handheld game-consoles, iPods, etc., use of such devices will also not be allowed during "deep lecture" (cell phones can be set to "vibrate" or to some other inaudible notification mode) for receiving emergency calls. There will be break times of five to ten minutes every half hour or so for students to check for messages, make short calls, etc.

(This document can be found online at <http://cs.nmu.edu/~jeffhorn/Classes/CS101/Fall2008/syllabus.html>).