Web-based Systems
COSC 430
Spring 2006

Meeting Information

College Hall 444
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Monday/Wednesday/Friday 2:00–2:50 p.m.
Final exam: Monday, May 1, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Course web page: http://blackboard.duq.edu

Instructor

Dr. Jeffrey Jackson
Office: 433 College Hall
Office Hours: MWF 3 p.m.–4 p.m., WF 10 a.m.–noon, drop-in, and by appointment
Phone: 396-6466
Email: jacksonj@duq.edu

Textbook


Objectives

The overall goal of this course is for students to learn to use a variety of fundamental technologies that have developed since the invention of the World Wide Web.
Specifically, students will become familiar with a number of different languages and technologies used for web development:

- Protocols used for web communication, particularly HTTP
- Web browsers and web servers, using Mozilla and Tomcat as primary examples
- Markup Languages, particularly Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and the Extensible Markup Language (XML)
- Style sheets, particularly Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)
- Client-side scripting languages, particularly JavaScript
Grading

I anticipate making roughly eight small to medium programming-type assignments over the course of the semester that will give students experience with the various technologies listed above. The assignments will generally have multiple requirements and will be graded based on how closely the final project fulfills the requirements. I also expect to make a similar number of non-programming homework assignments that will tend to focus on technical details of the material covered. Finally, I am scheduling two exams during the term, and there will also be a comprehensive final exam. These exams will test student understanding of concepts and technical details as well as basic skill with the technologies covered.

Different elements of the course will be weighted for grading purposes as follows:

- Written assignments 15%
- Computer-based projects 35%
- Term exams 30%
- Final exam 20%

Notice that unlike some Computer Science courses you may have taken, in this course the exams and outside work are equally weighted overall. While I will not formally take attendance or include it in grading, I expect regular attendance at lectures.

**Late Work Policy:** Assignments typically will be discussed in class the day they are due. Therefore, unless I have approved your absence in advance (or in other exceptional circumstances at my discretion), I will not accept a late homework assignment. Well, if you did the assignment and forgot to bring it to class, I may be lenient. But don’t make a habit of it and don’t count on it. The bottom line is, you should plan to get your assignments for this class done early, not late.

The final grade will be assigned as follows:

$$100-93 = A, \ 92-90 = A-, \ 89-87 = B+, \ 86-83 = B, \ 82-80 = B-, \ 79-77 = C+, \ 76-70 = C, \ 69-60 = D, \ below \ 60 = F.$$

Any curving I apply to grades normally happens on individual pieces of work, not on the final grade. I do assign minus grades as well as pluses, so if it’s important to you that
you receive an A rather than an A-, make sure that your grade is 93 or above. As a rule, I do not give extra credit assignments. However, if you go beyond the requirements for an assignment I may at my discretion give you some extra credit (up to about 10%) on that assignment.

Honor Policy

All work that you turn in, whether exams or assignments, must be your own unless I specify otherwise, although of course any help you receive from me is acceptable. Work that is not your own will receive no credit. Repeat offenses will result in course failure. If you are not sure what constitutes “your own” work, I expect you to ask me rather than assuming that your understanding is correct. If you don’t have time to ask, assume that if you have a question about whether or not something is your own work, it’s probably not.

Schedule

We are scheduled to have 42 class meetings. The tentative schedule is:

1–3. Introduction to the Internet, Web, Browsers, and Servers
4–7. HTML and XML
8–11. Cascading Style Sheets
12. First exam (Monday, Feb. 6)
13–16. JavaScript
17–21. DOM
22–26. JavaServlets
   27. Second exam (Monday, Mar. 20)
28–32. JSP
33–37. XML Processing
38–41. Web Services
42. Review
Final. Monday, May 1, 11:00 a.m.
Notes

Students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations if needed. If you need accommodations, please contact the Office of Freshman Development and Special Student Services in 309 Duquesne Union (412-396-6657) as soon as possible. Accommodations will not be granted retrospectively.

The information in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.