

Final Project

Overview.

The climax of this course is the final project. The final project will be your opportunity to design and implement a dynamic website of your very own. So long as your final project draws upon this course's lessons, the nature of your website will be entirely up to you, albeit subject to the staff's approval.

This semester will conclude with the second annual "Computer Science Fair" on Tuesday, 14 December 2010, 5:30pm ET – 7:30pm ET. A course-wide exhibition of final projects held jointly with CSCI E-7: Exposing Digital Photography, the Fair will be an opportunity to mingle with classmates, see each other's work, and eat cake. Distant students are encouraged to travel to campus for this event. Family and friends are welcome to join you.

Inasmuch as software development is rarely a one-person effort, you will be allowed an opportunity to collaborate with one or two fellow students for this final project. Needless to say, it is expected that every student in any such group will contribute equally to the design and implementation of that group's project. Moreover, it is expected that the scope of a two- or three-person group's project will be, respectively, twice or thrice that of a typical one-person project. A one-person project, mind you, should entail time and effort equivalent to or greater than that required by one of this course's assigned projects.

Requirements.

- Your website must live at `http://projects.domain.tld/final/`, where `domain.tld` is your own domain.
- Your website must utilize some combination of JavaScript, MySQL, and PHP, though not necessarily all three.
 - Your website must appear and behave the same on at least two major browsers, namely:
 - Chrome 5.x
 - Firefox 3.x
 - Internet Explorer 8.x
 - Opera 10.x
 - Safari 5.x

Academic Honesty

All work that you do toward fulfillment of this course's expectations must be your own unless collaboration is explicitly allowed by some project. Viewing or copying another individual's work (even if left by a printer, stored in an executable directory, or accidentally shared in the course's virtual terminal room) or lifting material from a book, magazine, website, or other source—even in part—and presenting it as your own constitutes academic dishonesty, as does showing or giving your work, even in part, to another student.

Similarly is dual submission academic dishonesty: you may not submit the same or similar work to this course that you have submitted or will submit to another. Nor may you provide or make available your or other students' solutions to Project 0, Project 1, Project 2, or Project 3 to individuals who take or may take this course (or CSCI S-75) in the future.

You are welcome to discuss the course's material with others in order to better understand it. You may even discuss problem sets with classmates, but you may not share code. You may also turn to the Web for instruction beyond the course's lectures and sections, for references, and for solutions to technical difficulties, but not for outright solutions to problems on projects. However, failure to cite (as with comments) the origin of any code or technique that you do discover outside of the course's lectures and sections (even while respecting these constraints) and then integrate into your own work may be considered academic dishonesty.

If in doubt as to the appropriateness of some discussion or action, contact the staff.

All forms of academic dishonesty are dealt with harshly.

Grades.

Your code (CSS, PHP, SQL, XHTML, XML, *etc.*) will be evaluated along the following axes.

Correctness. To what extent is your code consistent with our specifications and free of bugs?

Design. To what extent is your code written well (*i.e.*, clearly, efficiently, elegantly, and/or logically)?

Style. To what extent is your code readable (*i.e.*, commented and indented with variables aptly named)?

Schedule.

A schedule appears below. The pages that follow elaborate on these dates.

Released: Monday, 1 November 2010

Proposal Due: Monday, 15 November 2010, noon ET

Implementation Due: Monday, 13 December 2010, noon ET

Computer Science Fair: Tuesday, 14 December 2010, 5:30pm ET – 7:30pm ET

Extensions of these deadlines will not be granted, except in cases of emergency. Technical difficulties will not constitute emergencies. Late submissions will be penalized 1% per minute late up to 100%. Lateness will be determined by submissions' timestamps.

Proposal.

This proposal is your opportunity to solidify your own plan for your final project and receive counsel before you proceed to design. Submit your proposal at the URL below by the proposal's deadline.

<http://www.cs75.net/projects/final/proposal>

Your teaching fellow will either approve your proposal or require modifications on your part for subsequent approval. Your proposal, even if approved, is not binding; you may alter your plan at any point, provided you obtain your teaching fellow's approval for any modifications.

Implementation.

Ultimately due is implementation of your final project.

Once done with your site, put together a readme at:

<http://projects.domain.tld/final/readme/index.php>

Treat this readme as your opportunity not only to explain but to justify your design decisions. Tell us why you implemented your site in the manner you did. Tell us with which two (or more) browsers we should evaluate your site. And give us an overall sense of how your site works (*e.g.*, tell us which files do what). But still be succinct; keep this readme to just a few paragraphs in length.

A few days prior to the implementation's deadline, instructions for submitting your work will be posted to the course's Google Group. Be sure to look for those directions and then submit your work prior to the implementation's deadline.

Computer Science Fair.

The Fair will be your opportunity to showcase your work not only to us but also to classmates, assuming you can make it to Cambridge! Distant students are encouraged, but not required, to attend. Unless impossible, please plan to bring a laptop that supports 802.11b so that you can exhibit your work on your own machine. Be sure to know your Harvard ID number and PIN that evening so that you can register your laptop on Harvard's network if need be.

The Fair's location on campus will be announced via the course's Google Group.

Friends and family are welcome. And (Entenmann's) cake will be served! Consider the evening as a casual celebration of your success in the course!