

IS 448 Markup and Scripting Languages

Spring 2009

Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Sreedevi Sampath

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 to 3pm and by appointment

Office: ITE 451

Email: sampath@umbc.edu

Phone: 410-455-8845 (preferred method of contact is by email)

Class time: Tuesday and Thursdays, 11.30am to 12.45pm

Class location: ITE 467

Teaching assistant: Mr. Sandipan Dey

Office hours: Mondays 2 to 4pm

Office: ITE 411

Email: sandip2@umbc.edu

Course Description

IS448 covers the history, theory, and practice of markup languages and their associated scripting languages. In the course, we will cover client-side web technology including HTML/Graphics, JavaScript, XML, with special emphasis on XML and server-side web technology including server-side scripting technologies, and databases. The course will also cover CGI, Web Server APIs such as PHP, and common databases used with web technology.

Course Objectives

At the end of the semester, a student completing the course should have

- ability to develop advanced HTML pages with Javascript
- design custom markup languages using specifications provided by XML
- design and develop a web application that implements server-side scripting and database access capabilities

Required Textbook

Programming the World Wide Web, Robert W. Sebesta, 4th edition. ISBN: 9780321489692

Additional Resources

- W3schools: <http://www.w3schools.com>
- Links to online resources as posted on the course's Blackboard site

Blackboard site

A Blackboard site will be maintained for the course throughout the semester. It can be accessed through myUMBC or at <http://blackboard.umbc.edu>

The page will contain all project deliverable descriptions, lecture slides, solutions to exams, grades and all announcements pertinent to the course. **Each student is responsible for checking the web page regularly, and for being aware of any information posted there.**

Grading

The University's Undergraduate Catalog states that, "A, indicates superior achievement; B, good performance; C, adequate performance; D, minimal performance; F, failure". There is specifically no mention of any numerical scores associated with these letter grades. Consequently, there are no pre-defined numerical boundaries that determine final letter grades. These boundaries can only be defined at the end of the semester after all scores have been earned. At that point, numerical boundaries for final letter grades can be defined (usually using a "curve") such that they conform to the University's and Information System Department's official guidelines. **This means that it is not appropriate to assume that a given numerical score corresponds to a particular letter grade.** Historical data suggests an "A" may be in the 90-100 range, a "B" may be from 80-89 and "C" grades range from 70-79.

It is also important to understand that final letter grades reflect academic achievement and not effort.

While I am more than happy to correct mistakes in the computation of grades and grade recording errors, in all other situations final letter grades are not negotiable.

A student's final course grade will be based on scores received on the homework assignments, exams, quizzes and class participation, as follows:

- **(45%) Homework:** There will be 7 (tentatively) homework assignments given out throughout the semester (see schedule for dates). The assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Students typically will have at least one week to work on the assignment. All assignments are typically submitted via Blackboard. The homework submission link on Blackboard will expire at the beginning of class on the day the homework is due. Email submissions will not be accepted. Further details on the assignment submission process will be made available on the assignment sheet.
- **(10%) Quizzes:** A 10 minute, closed-book, online quiz will be administered through Blackboard at the beginning of each **Thursday** class unless otherwise noted (see course schedule). The quiz will cover material taught the previous week. The goals of the weekly quizzes are to (a) reinforce the concepts in recent classes and readings and (b) assess individual student understanding of recent topics/skills. The format

of the quiz will be short answer, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, or true or false types of questions.

Each quiz will be given out **promptly at 11.30am and the quiz will expire at 11.40am**. Please make sure you come to class on time, especially on quiz days, so you have the entire allotted time to answer the quiz questions. No exceptions will be accommodated.

Each student's **lowest two quiz grades will not be counted** toward their final grade. So, if you miss more than 2 quizzes, all additional quizzes missed and the corresponding quiz grades will affect your final grade. Makeup quizzes will not be given.

- **(3 * 13% = 39%) Exams:** There will be three exams in this course. Please check the course schedule for the dates. **Exams are not cumulative.**

In general, **make up exams will not be given**. If you know that you will have to miss an exam in advance, talk to me about it. If I am given sufficient notice, and if I agree that your absence cannot be avoided, then I can arrange a makeup exam. If you miss an exam due to an unforeseen emergency, then we can arrange a makeup exam if I agree that your absence was due to a bona fide emergency and you can document that emergency to my satisfaction. In all cases, you should be warned that makeup exams are generally more difficult and more prone to errors and misunderstandings than the original exam, simply because I do not have the time to devote to writing a makeup exam as carefully as I do other exams.

- **(6%) Class participation:** This portion of the grade is a subjective assessment of a student's class attendance, contribution to class discussions and exercises, the student's attendance, punctuality, willingness to seek help from classmates and from me, and ability to conduct himself/herself appropriately. Please note that class participation **does not** reflect class attendance only.

Course Policies

Attendance and class participation: Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class activities. While attendance is not required, you are strongly encouraged to attend. Please note that 6% of your total grade is derived from class participation. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the relevant notes and hand outs to help you prepare for the quizzes and exams. Please come to class on time. Tardiness will affect your class participation grade. There will be in-class discussions and material covered in lectures that will not be available on the textbook and on the Web page. You will be responsible for that material in the quizzes and the exams. You are therefore strongly encouraged to attend all lectures.

Readings: The readings posted on the syllabus are assigned to students as reading materials. Students are expected to read the readings posted on the syllabus for a particular class day **before** the class meeting.

Late policy: The due dates are to be taken seriously and you should not expect them to be extended. However, there might be various circumstances because of which you may not be able to submit a particular assignment on time. Late assignments will always be penalized as it is not fair to the other students who sacrificed their sleep and spent time to submit the assignment on time. I also believe that a late assignment is better than no assignment.

With this in mind, the following late policy will be implemented in this course: **Late assignments will be penalized 10% off the total possible points if turned in within the first 24-hour period after the specified due date and time, and 5% per 24-hour period (or fraction of a day) (including weekends) after that time, up to three days after the due date.** Late assignments will be accepted with penalty up to three days after the due date. Assignments submitted at any later time will not be accepted. It is up to you to determine the version of your assignment to be graded. You must weigh the late penalty against the completeness of your assignment.

When turning in an assignment late, you should email the homework material to the teaching assistant with a CC to me. Your homework submission time will be determined by the time stamp on the email with your homework material received by the TA and me. This is the only situation in which homework submissions will be accepted by email.

Regrading Policy: If you are dissatisfied with a grade on an **assignment** you should consult the teaching assistant directly within one week of the day the graded assignment is returned to you. If you are unable to resolve the concern with the TA, then come to me. If you are dissatisfied with a grade on an **exam**, you should consult me directly within a week of the day the graded exam was returned to you. No regrade requests will be considered after this week period for both homework assignments and exams.

Cell Phones, Beepers, and Other Devices: All cell phones and beepers must be turned off during class ("vibrate" mode is okay). If you must make a call, please leave the classroom. If you disrupt the class you will be asked to leave the classroom. An occasional email check is unavoidable and I understand this, but make sure you avoid browsing the web, chatting, facebooking, myspacing, and excessive email checking while in class. I will know when you are engaged in these activities, and if I find your behavior disrupting, I will ask you to leave the classroom.

Getting Help-Questions and Concerns: Email is the BEST way to get in touch with me. I will try to answer your email as soon as possible. When I send out emails to the class on the class list, make sure you are receiving them. You are encouraged to use your UMBC e-mail account for all e-mail correspondence.

Also, you are strongly encouraged to make use of my office hours (listed above) to go over any issues you are having with the course or the course material. In addition to the listed office hours, I am also available by appointment, which means that you should email me before stopping by my office to make sure that I will be in.

Inclement weather policy: In case of inclement weather, check the main UMBC Webpage (<http://www.umbc.edu>) to see whether UMBC is closed and classes are canceled. In the event of such cancellation on an exam day, I will reschedule the exam and announce the same to the students. If there is a deliverable due on that day, there will be no extension for the deliverable. You should still submit the softcopy of your deliverable on time. If the assignment has a hard copy deliverable, the due date for the hardcopy of your deliverable will automatically be before start of class on the day of the next class.

Academic Honesty

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to a grade of 0 on the relevant assignment, failure of the entire course, suspension, or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook, the Faculty Handbook, or the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC Directory. Every student should read and fully understand the information given at <http://www.umbc.edu/integrity>

In particular, for this course:

- Cheating will not be tolerated on the exams, assignments, or quizzes. Cheating includes gaining specific information about the exam before taking it (e.g. in the case of a make-up exam), as well as consulting unauthorized materials during the exam or quiz.
- Plagiarism: misrepresenting as your own work any part of the work performed by another person, including Internet sources. Knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise, including works of art, source code and computer generated information/images.
- Academic dishonesty also includes interfering with another student's work or aiding another student to commit academic dishonesty.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Below is a tentative schedule of lecture topics, exams, and deliverable due dates. I reserve the right to adjust this schedule for any reason, but I will make every effort to advise you of any changes well in advance. The schedule will be updated on Blackboard, so please look at it frequently there to make sure you are aware of any changes.

Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Quizzes	Homework
Tu	1/27	Introductions, Fundamentals	Chapter 1		
Th	1/29	HTML Basics, XHTML	Chapter 2	Quiz 1	HW1 out
Tu	2/3	HTML Basics	Chapter 2		
Th	2/5	HTML Basics	Chapter 2	Quiz 2	
F	2/6	Last day to Drop/Add class			
Tu	2/10	Cascading Style Sheets	Chapter 3		HW1 in, HW2 out
Th	2/12	Cascading Style Sheets	Chapter 3	Quiz 3	
Tu	2/17	JavaScript	Chapter 4		
Th	2/19	JavaScript	Chapter 4	Quiz 4	
M	2/23	Last day to Drop without a 'W'			
Tu	2/24	JavaScript and XHTML	Chapter 5		HW2 in, HW3 out
Th	2/26	Javascript and XHTML	Chapter 5	Quiz 5	
Tu	3/3	Exam 1			
Th	3/5	XML	Chapter 6	NO QUIZ	
Tu	3/10	XML	Chapter 6		HW3 in, HW4 out
Th	3/12	XML	Chapter 6	Quiz 6	
Tu	3/17	Spring Break			
Th	3/19	Spring Break			
Tu	3/24	XML	Chapter 6		
Th	3/26	Ajax	Chapter 16	Quiz 7	HW4 in, HW5 out
Tu	3/31	Ajax	Chapter 16		
Th	4/2	Exam 2		NO QUIZ	
Tu	4/7	Server-side: CGI	Chapter 8, 9		
Th	4/9	Server-side: CGI	Chapter 8, 9	Quiz 8	HW5 in, HW6 out
M	4/13	Last day to Drop with a 'W'			
Tu	4/14	Server-side: CGI	Chapter 8, 9		
Th	4/16	Server-side: PHP	Chapter 11	Quiz 9	
Tu	4/21	Server-side: PHP	Chapter 11		
Th	4/23	Server-side: PHP	Chapter 11	Quiz 10	HW6 in, HW 7 out
Tu	4/28	Server-side: PHP	Chapter 11		
Th	4/30	Database access through Web	Chapter 13	Quiz 11	
Tu	5/5	Database access through Web	Chapter 13		
Th	5/7	Review, Catch-up		NO QUIZ	HW7 in
Tu	5/12	Exam 3			