CS350/491 Syllabus, 2014 Spring

Course Web Site: www.cs.siu.edu/~dche/courses/CS350

INSTRUCTOR

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OBJECTIVE

This course is designed to get students well equipped with the popular methods and tools/languages used for the construction and development of contemporary web sites, including both client-side and server-side technologies. This objective is pursued by instructor’s comprehensive lectures and students' extensive programming exercises. Generally, only one set of lectures are presented to the students of both CS350 and CS491. But higher standards for CS491 students will be set, e.g., by giving more or higher demanding projects, extra questions in exams, and additional, self-study subjects and projects/demos/presentations.

CHALLENGES

- To learn numerous different programming/scripting languages and technologies in as short as one semester – this had turned out to be a heavy memory burden to most students in the past.
- Also relatively heavy workload of lab assignments (usually 8 projects, no traditional homework).
PREREQUISITES

CS202 with a grade of B or better (or with instructor’s consent).

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The course is a comprehensive introduction to the concepts and commonly used tools/languages/technologies to create web sites and web applications. Web application development consists of client-side programming and server-side programming. Main topics include: XHTML, CSS, JavaScript, Java Servlets, Java Server Pages, and XML, PHP, Ajax, Web database access (using JDBC), etc.

TEXTBOOK


GRADING POLICY

There will be about 8+ lab assignments and two exams (two midterms). All exams will be closed-book unless announced otherwise.

Homework and labs: 40% No late submissions (will stick to this rule firmly!!)

Two term exams: 60% (30% for each exam)

Note: the above percentages are tentative (curving may be made at the end of the semester only if the overall grade distribution of the entire class is abnormal, which happens rarely).

Tentative Schedule for Exam Dates

- Term Exam 1: Mar. 3, Monday (right before spring break week).
- Term Exam 2: Follow SIU’s official schedule for final exam: May 8 (Thursday), 12:50 - 2:50 p.m
Final letter grades are decided according to the following common standard:

- A ---- above 90
- B ---- 80 --- 89
- C ---- 70 --- 79
- D ---- 60 --- 69
- F ---- below 60

Any kind of **cheating is prohibited**, and **everyone** involved in an identified cheating case will be **punished** per department and university policies! A frequently found inappropriate behavior (cheating) is copying or showing the source code (even a small segment) of your projects to others. So **never** directly communicate code, though students are allowed and actually encouraged to learn from one another and discuss alternative methods of solving a problem.

**SYLLABUS** (subject to minor change and adjustment)

1. Fundamentals 2 lectures
2. Introduction to XHTML 2 lectures
3. Cascading Style Sheets 2 lectures
4. The Basics of JavaScript 2 lectures
5. JavaScript and HTML Documents 4 lectures
6. DHTML: Dynamic Documents with JavaScript 4 lectures
7. Introduction to XML 2 lectures
8. [Quick] Introduction to Flash 2 lectures
9. Introduction to PHP 2 lectures
10. Introduction to AJAX 4 lectures
11. Introduction to Java Web Software 4 lectures
12. Database Access through the Web 4 lectures
13. Introduction to Ruby and Rails 2 lectures
14. Introduction to .Net technology 1 lectures

**A FINAL NOTE**

You **can** discuss any problem, but shall **not** try to negotiate with an instructor for a better grade. When it is **not** a “black and white” type of question and your answer is not completely right. It is impossible to quantify how much you are right, e.g., 50% right, and accordingly to ask for 50% of the allocated points to that question. Be aware that the instructor has a whole class to take care. The same “strictness” (or policy) has been applied to all other students in the class. Any request for change of the marks on a partially completed/correct answer means that a similar change must be fairly made to the grades of all other students who have comparable cases, which is infeasible. What is the most important is that the same grading scale/policy is to be applied to all
students. Other than that, this instructor rejects any kind of grade negotiation. To tell the truth, “negotiation for a better grade” delivers a negative attitude of learning, and will probably never earn anything good for you. The right attitude is “work harder and earn better”.

SIU Syllabus Attachment:

**TIOBE Programming Community Index for the Current Year**