COSC 216NR: Applications Programming
Fall 2007
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INSTRUCTOR: Dr. David J. Ayersman

TIME/DAY: 4-7PM on Thursday

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are to enable students to:

1. Gain extensive experience with creating databases and integrating them with web sites.
2. Develop specific expertise with the FileMaker Pro client and server database applications.
3. Apply their understanding of dynamic web site concepts through the completion of multiple authentic projects.
4. Engage in rich discussions regarding practical applications of data-driven web sites.
5. Demonstrate proficiency with e-mail, word-processing, web browsing, brainstorming, presentation, and HTML authoring applications.
6. Investigate multiple issues pertaining to the creation and maintenance of data-driven web sites.
7. Explore current research and information regarding the creation of databases and connected web sites.

PURPOSE OF COURSE

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a specific expertise in creating databases that integrate with web sites. Additionally, students will develop and/or improve skills using computers, knowledge of computer usage possibilities, and the application of computers for teaching and learning. Select topics will be explored in depth through a combination of formal discussions (both in-class and online), hands-on activities, and assignments.

TEXT AND MATERIALS

No specific texts are required. The instructor will provide various readings and the student is expected to gather relevant readings to further expand his/her knowledge base.

This course will utilize WebCT for some aspects of course activities, assignments, communication, and assessment.

LATE-WORK POLICY

All work is due on the assigned date; work turned in after due date will receive a 30% reduction in total-assignment value, providing it is turned in at the beginning of the next class session; work turned in after the next class session or not turned in will receive an automatic zero.

GRADE DETERMINATION

Grades of all completed work will be calculated based on the weight of each assignment; all weighted values will then be added and compared to the following scale; the student will receive the letter grade that corresponds with the sum of all weighted values. There are 1000 points possible.

90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
0-59 F

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Participation — 10% (100 points)

Students are required to attend all class sessions, fully prepared via reading assignments, writing assignments, and/or computer-based assignments. Both in-class and online activities will be considered part of course participation.

Projects — 30% (300 points)

Several student projects will be proposed, discussed and agreed upon. The points awarded to each of these will vary but collectively they comprise 20% of the overall grade.

Mid-Term and Final Exams — 20% total (10% each) (100 points each)

Exams will be online and open-source (individual effort). Exams will generally be available for a few days (availability will be announced).

Major Project Concept Map — 10% (100 points)

Each student will develop a fairly extensive concept map of the major elements of their approved topic for the Major Research Project. These concept maps can be developed using the freely available 30-day demonstration version of Inspiration (see www.inspiration.com to download a copy) or by using the computer lab.

Major Project — 25% (250 points)

Each student will identify a topic relevant to psychology as applied to teaching, gain approval of that topic from the instructor, conduct an in-depth investigation of that topic that includes current research, and then incorporate the topic (based on a summary of findings) into an instructional lesson or activity (see Appendix C for guidelines).

Oral Presentation of Major Project — 5% (50 points)

Each student will orally present a summary and overview of her major project to the rest of the class. Due to time constraints and the size of the class each oral presentation will be limited to 5-10 minutes.

Note: The course instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus throughout the semester. When changes occur students will be duly notified.

Appendix A.

MAJOR PROJECT EXPLANATION

The purpose of the Major Project is to identify one topic well in advance of its due date and then continuously work toward completing it while also completing other course requirements at the same time. Often, the lessons learned from individual projects can be applied to the Major Project, thus improving it while working on it incrementally. Because the Major Project counts for a substantial portion of the overall grade, it should reflect a greater amount of work and research as compared to other smaller assignments.

The submitted project must include an actual database as well as the accompanying web pages that make it interactive. Less important than the actual data within the database (it will likely be sample data rather than actual data), is the actual functionality of the database and web pages. The design, the consistency of data elements, the navigational elements, and the overall interface are all important elements.

The oral presentation of the Major Project could include additional information (PowerPoint presentation, a word-processed paper, a series of Web pages, or combination of these and another format). A narrative should be included to clearly explain how the course constructs chosen were applied and why they were chosen.

The final project must reflect the application of various elements and theories learned throughout the course.

Appendix B.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF ORAL PRESENTATION

This page contains a checklist that will be used to evaluate the oral presentation:

http://web.newriver.edu/technology/softeval_oral.html