SYLLABUS: MUIN 495 Web Design for the Music Industry

Instructor:
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Course Description
A hands-on experience in which students work in teams to create web sites specifically designed to promote, market, and sell musical artists’ products online. Recommended preparation: MUIN 280 or equivalent.

Procedure:
The class consists of lectures and demonstrations, from which students will develop specific Web skills through exercise assignments and projects. Students will work to promote a specific artist or music-oriented company online with the site. They will develop an online marketing plan and budget, prepare media for online consumption, and execute the plan by creating a compelling online presence including a complete website with music, photos, and video.

Requirements, Exams and Grading Information
Each student will be evaluated individually on assigned exercises and quizzes, and as a team member on the Website and Marketing Plan team project. Exercises are small projects to be completed outside of class. Quizzes consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions based on concepts and nomenclature presented in class. For purposes of the project, students will form teams of two to four persons, and each team will submit one Website and one Marketing Plan. Each team member will receive the same grade on the Project as other members of their team.

The Website will be designed and implemented by the team, and hosted on a server with outside access available (the address will be given in class). Website evaluation will include the clarity of its goal (the Most Desired Action) and effectiveness toward conversion, as well as completeness, functionality, usability, attractiveness, and timeliness of completion. The Marketing Plan will be graded on completeness, clarity and justification of plan elements, degree of professionalism in presentation, and timeliness of completion. Rubrics for both the Website and the Marketing Plan will be available during the semester as a guide to specific requirements and assessments.

GRADING SUMMARY
1. Exercises 40%
2. Quizzes 10%
3. Website(s) 30%
4. Marketing Plan 10%
5. Class Participation 10%

Letter grades are assigned strictly by percentage: 90+ = A, 80 – 89.99 = B, 70 – 79.99 = C, 60 – 69.99 = D, < 60 = F. Grades ending in 0 but less than 4 are minus, while those ending in 7 but less than 0 are plus (except for A, which has no plus grade). I do not curve or “round” scores – please do not ask.
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Class Materials
Web browser, Chrome preferred.
Firebug Extension
PC: Notepad ++ (free) http://notepad-plus-plus.org/
FTP Program – Mac and PC: Cyberduck (free) http://cyberduck.io/
iTheme’s Builder Complete Toolkit, $35 (approx), available at http://ithemes.com/education/student-toolkit/ using the discount code to be given in class. Licenses are good through December 2014.

Academic Integrity
Your attention is directed to the principles of Academic Integrity as outlined in the current edition of SCampus. Collaboration or sharing of information when preparing homework and projects or during any exams is expressly forbidden unless specifically allowed by the instructor.

USC is committed to the general principles of academic honesty that include and incorporate the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. By taking this course, students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. All submitted work for this course may be subject to an originality review as performed by Turnitin technologies <http://www.turnitin.com> to find textual similarities with other Internet content or previously submitted student work. Students of this course retain the copyright of their own original work, and Turnitin is not permitted to use student-submitted work for any other purpose than (a) performing an originality review of the work, and (b) including that work in the database against which it checks other student-submitted work.

Communication:
All course material, documentation and grades will be posted on Blackboard at https://blackboard.usc.edu/. It is your responsibility to learn to operate Blackboard. All e-mail correspondence regarding the class will be sent to USC email accounts only, so please check yours regularly! Note: take care to file messages so your mailbox does not fill up… if it does you will not get any new messages.

Class Participation
Because of the specialized nature of the subject, in-class attendance and participation are critical for understanding the material and concepts covered in this class. Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Participation in all class sessions will be noted and will count towards your final grade. Missing more than three classes will lower your participation grade by 25% per additional absence. In addition, missing more than four classes qualifies for being dropped from the course, or you may receive a grade of FAIL. If you cannot attend a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from Blackboard or a classmate. If an extenuating circumstance arises that forces you to miss more than the allowed classes, contact the instructor immediately.

Classroom Behavior:
No sleeping or eating in class. Please exercise common courtesy during lectures and do not distract the class with talk or other disruptive behavior. Use of electronic devices (excepting laptops) during class is considered disruptive. Ringing cell phones will be confiscated and given away as door prizes. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.
Disabilities:
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to the TA if applicable) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 213-740-0776.

Class Schedule (subject to tweakage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>01/12</td>
<td>Introduction, outline of the class, reading &amp; sources. History of the Internet and 12 Music Marketing Milestones. Intro to HTML. Exercise 1 assigned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>01/19</td>
<td>Martin Luther King holiday (Wednesday class meets). Review of Internet terms and protocols; their meaning and uses. HTML basics. More on CSS. Exercise 1 uploaded to server and fixed as needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>01/26</td>
<td>Continuation of HTML and CSS basics. Intro to file management and FTP. Creating an HTML bio page. Exercise 1 due. Exercise 2 assigned. LAST WEEK TO DROP WITHOUT A “W”</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>02/16</td>
<td>Exercise 4 due. A brief introduction to PHP and Javascript. Leveraging Facebook, Twitter, Linked In, Google+, in a website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>02/23</td>
<td>Midterm Exam (quiz). Intermediate CSS and intro to CSS3. Collect website design examples (group exercise). Creating a site map and initial design on paper – why and how. Exercise 5 assigned.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>03/16</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>03/30</td>
<td>Status presentations (Wed). Turning WordPress into an app. LAST WEEK TO DROP WITH A “W”</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>04/06</td>
<td>Email marketing campaigns. Designing HTML email. The role of PR.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>04/13</td>
<td>Usability testing. Turning the site over to the client. Site review and troubleshooting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>04/20</td>
<td>Websites online. Individual meetings with groups or individuals begin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>04/27</td>
<td>Websites online and functional. Meetings continue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>Websites frozen for grading. No final exam.</td>
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</table>
Bibliography:
There are a plethora of good books available on web design and implementation, although the technology moves so quickly that books can rapidly become outdated. Except where noted, these have lasting value and should serve a references for some time to come.


Keith, Jeremy. 2010. *HTML5 For Web Designers*; A Book Apart (ISBN: 978-0-984425-0-8). *Note: this small and inexpensive volume is a good basic reference for HTML5’s enhancements.*


