

# Semester Project: Informational Website

## PURPOSE:

To design, develop, and publish an informational website using recommended design practices. You can choose from a variety of themes, as long as it is your original work. Examples include: an avocation, your original literary or artistic creations, or something worthwhile that you are well-informed about. You may even use a research paper from another class, if you can prove that you wrote it. The idea is to create a website that contains worthwhile and original information for visitors. Please keep in mind that this is NOT A FICTITIOUS WEBSITE; THE INFORMATION MUST BE REAL.

To best manage your project, it will be split up into four milestones – much like a real-world project development cycle. The milestones are worth the following percentage of your final grade.

Web Site Topic Approval	4%
Planning Analysis Sheet	4%
Site Map and Wireframe	4%
Final Website Project	18%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30%</b>

## NOTE:

If you wish to create a commercial website instead of an informational website, you may do so. However, you will have to publish it on commercial web server.

## IMPORTANT:

Content inspiration does not mean that you can copy other people's websites. Instead, you must come up with original content for your website. You may use *some* researched information, but you must cite and document it appropriately.

## PROJECT MILESTONES

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### Website Topic Approval:

Prepare the proposal as a webpage with CSS layout. You can write it in either a narrative or bulleted format. Remember to link it to your *Assignments Page*.

1. What is the purpose of the site?
  2. What do you want the web site to accomplish?
  3. Who is your intended audience? Please do not say “everyone”
  4. What type of content might be included in your site?
  5. What will be unique about the content of your website?
  6. List 3 similar sites and specify whether each example is based on *content* or *design inspiration*.
    - At least one sample site should be related to your *proposed content*.
    - Also, at least one sample should provide you with some *design inspiration*. (Don’t worry—I’m not going to hold you to this in the end.)
- The appearance of the page must be at least up to par with what we have covered so far.
  - The layout must be 2 columns. The total width of the columns must be 1000 px or less (i.e. #wrapper).
    - In the first column, you will address questions 1-5, using a bulleted or narrative format. IMPORTANT: Even if you use bulleted format, you must answer the questions thoroughly. Using full sentences and deeper thinking will aid in your planning for the overall project.
    - In the second column, you will answer question 6. Use small screenshots to display your sample websites. Be sure to hyperlink the pictures or the text below it.

<b>DUE ON</b>	<b>Fri., October 21</b>
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## Planning Analysis:

Write a plan that includes the following subheadings. Prepare it as a webpage with attractive CSS layout and link it to your *Assignments Page*.

Make sure this assignment is a different page than your Website Topic Approval. In other words, please do not overwrite your Topic Approval page.

- **Website goal:** Describe 2 or 3 specifics that you wish your site to accomplish. (Note that if you did a good job of defining these in your Topic Approval, you may still have the same goals.)
- **URL for Commercial Websites (ONLY):** *This requirement is **ONLY FOR** students designing a commercial website. If you are not designing a commercial website, simply skip to the next question. Please do not spend time answering this question.*

If your website is going to be commercial, you must have secured a hosting company and domain name by this time. Please provide your domain and the name of the company that the site is being hosted with. This assignment will be considered late if your hosting space and domain is not purchased yet. See me in the office if you have any questions.

- **Navigation menu:** List the titles of the main pages that you are planning for your website. You are required to have at least six (6) pages. (e.g. Home, History, About Me, etc.)
- **Information and resources:**  
List what you need, and where you will obtain them (facts, text, graphics, sounds, etc.) In this section, there should be assurance that your content will mostly be original.
- And remember, the page must look pleasant and use a columnar layout. No single columns, please.

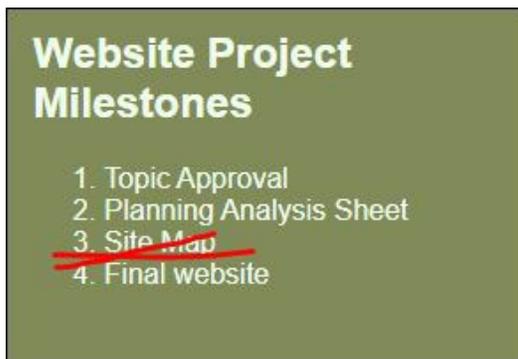
<b>DUE ON</b>	<b>Fri., November 4</b>
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**This milestone was modified on Nov. 16, 2022. It specifies that the Sitemap is no longer required. If you have already submitted it, feel free to include the whole package that I asked for originally. Otherwise follow directions below.**

**Wireframe:**

- Create a wireframe for the homepage that you are planning. It should clearly show the major areas of the webpage.
- Use any software you desire for creating it. Examples are Word or PowerPoint. If you would like to use an online wireframe generator, you may search for it.
- Save your file as a PDF.
- On your Assignment Page, change the Sitemap link to read “Wireframe” as shown below:

**Not this**



**But like this**



- Link your PDF document to the Wireframe title and upload properly.

The syntax for linking a document is shown below:

```
<a href="yourfilename.pdf">Wireframe</a>
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<b>DUE ON</b>	<b>November 18</b>
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## Final Website Project:

Finish publishing your website to the stu.cofc.edu server. Place a link to it on your Assignments Page.

This counts as Final Exam and is **due on the day of your final exam.**

**Section 01**, Monday, December 12 by 12:30PM

**Section 02**, Wednesday, December 7 by 10:00AM

Publish your project to the student web server. The **requirements to earn at least a C** on the final website are listed below:

- **NO TEMPLATES**
- The website must be responsive
- The homepage must be called index.html
- Only one CSS external page.
- All images must be optimized.
- The navigation must be configured with unordered lists
- The layout must be more than one column
- A total of six (6) pages or more
- One of the pages must be an “About Me” page.
- Proper identity at top of each page; although your home page can look different from secondary pages
- Consistent and easy-to-follow navigation
- Include meta tag for **description**
- Include at least one table used effectively
- Hyperlinked e-mail on home page
- External hyperlinks
- Do not use social media links unless they lead to your real social media accounts
- All HTML and CSS pages must be validated at <http://validator.w3.org> and <http://jigsaw.w3.org>
- Fragment IDs on pages if they are longer than two screens.
- Your site must be viewable at different resolutions, and in different browsers without significant differences.
- **DO NOT** use a form unless it is both functional and meaningful. This cannot be used to fill or represent a page. If you want to use a form, you must go the extra mile and code the processing script for it.
- If you choose to use YouTube or other un-original videos, make sure there are no more than two (unless they belong to you). The reason is that YouTube videos are not your original content.
- Use a multi-line footer, perhaps containing a few of your social media accounts if you wish to share. But don't link them to generic websites.

In order to **earn a higher grade**, you must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of HTML using proper coding, attractive imagery, and effective layout. Also, be sure to follow the recommended web site design practices at <http://terrymorris.net/bestpractices>. In summary, if you simply stick with the minimum requirements, without attempting any challenging HTML and CSS features, it may mean that you have earned an average grade of “C”.