CMAP272 Final Project Requirements

Why a final project?

1. Typically, students enjoy final projects much more than a final exam; hence they take more time, become more involved and consequently learn more creating a full site.
2. A final projects can cover many more skills and concepts than can be included in a timed exam.
3. Final projects are a much more enjoyable way to end the semester. Viewing your classmates' work and sharing programming tricks and design ideas tends to benefit students more than an exam and students leave the course on a positive note.
4. Most importantly, you end up with web site suitable for showing potential employers -- a start for the all-important electronic portfolio!

Project Requirements

1. You must select and visit one of the following Smithsonian exhibitions (http://www.si.edu/Exhibitions/Favorites) to base your site on. There is a wide variety of exhibitions to choose from in several locations - everybody should be able to find something that interests them.
2. You have two options;
   a. Create a five-page web site based on a Smithsonian exhibit using Smithsonian resources, e.g., images, video, museum visit, audio, etc.
      i. Your job is to "sell" the exhibit to your users. Think of yourself as being hired by the Smithsonian to advertise the exhibit.
      ii. Here are some examples of pages you might want to include...(asterisked items are required)
         1. **Homepage*** - use images and text to introduce your topic. This page should motivate your users to want to seek more information about your exhibit or topic.
         2. **An explanation of the exhibit** - What makes this exhibit important? Is there a story to be told, if so, what is it? Fill your users in on the background information they need to put this issue in the proper context.
         3. **An image gallery** - Try using your image linking skills to create a picture gallery. (Images can be placed in a table)
         4. **Map, directions, museum hours and address*** - Google maps is a great way to easily incorporate a map into your site.

    b. Create a three-page website with an individual video based on a Smithsonian exhibit using Smithsonian resources, e.g., images, video, museum visit, audio, etc.

        i. Your job is to "sell" the exhibit to your users. Think of yourself as being hired by the Smithsonian to advertise the exhibit.

        ii. Here are some examples of elements you might want to include...(asterisked items are required)

            1. **Video*** - about 2-5 minutes long video **you** filmed, edited and formatted; and should present your topic in a compelling manner.

            2. **Homepage*** - should introduce the exhibit and the video should be embedded on the homepage (unless you have a compelling reason to put it elsewhere).

            3. **An explanation of the exhibit** - What makes this exhibit important? Is there a story to be told, if so, what is it? Fill your users in on the background information they need to put this issue in the proper context.

            4. **Map, directions, museum hours and address*** - Google maps is a great way to easily incorporate a map into your site.

3. Regardless of which option you choose, all sites will need to adhere to the following guidelines...

    a. Your site must contain a minimum of three or five (depending on the option you choose) separate html pages.

    b. Use at least two directories/folders. One should be named "images" and should contain all your images. The other should be named "css" and contain your CSS style sheets.

    c. Navigation

        i. needs to be persistent and consistent on all pages

        ii. should be purely CSS/HTML based

    d. Use CSS only for your presentation layer - no deprecated tags like <font>! No using tables for page layout either!! Tables can be used for image galleries and the contact info page with museum hours, address etc.

    e. Each site should have the following elements...

        i. one table (as described above)

        ii. a link to a named anchor

        iii. your contact info and email link at the bottom of each page

        iv. at least five images

    f. Use spell check! Spelling errors will discount your grade.

4. The project will also require three sets of documentation – two written and one oral

    a. The first piece of documentation is a one page typed proposal and should include

        i. The exhibit being featured

        ii. The option you have chosen from the choices above

        iii. What is your reason for selecting this exhibit

        iv. What do you hope visitors will gain from your site

   b. The second piece of documentation is a set of plans for your site
      i. The plans can be either hand-drawn or computer generated
      ii. There should be one plan for each page of your site
      iii. The plans should identify headline and logo placement
      iv. The plans should show navigation elements
      v. The plans should indicate generally where text and images will be placed
      vi. The plans should show footer information
      vii. Each page of the plans should have your name (or the group name) and should be large enough that I can read the major elements
   c. The oral documentation will be a presentation at the end of the semester
      i. The presentation will allow you to show off your work to the rest of the class
      ii. It should summarize much of what as in the proposal
      iii. You may also want to talk about particular challenges or tricks or tips
   d. The proposal and plans due dates are listed in the syllabus, the presentation replaces our final exam
5. The final project will be graded based on the values given below
   a. The project proposal is due March 25 and is worth 25 points
   b. The project plans are due April 22 and are worth 50 points
   c. The final site is to be posted prior to our final exam period (May 13) and is worth 100 points
   d. Your presentation of the site during our final exam period (8:00 a.m.) is worth 25 points

You are welcome to travel to the museums in groups. But please do your own work.

WireFrames/Plans

Because web site wireframes are something you may not be accustomed to working with a sample is provided below. These images have been reduced to fit on one page, when you submit your plans each web page should be on its own piece of paper (and large enough for me to clearly see your design elements). Your wireframes can be hand-drawn, but keep them as neat and professional as possible.