

Foothill College
Computer, Technology & Information Systems Division
COIN78 Introduction to eXtensible Markup Language (XML)
Spring Quarter, 2010

Course Information: COIN78.04W 5 units: meets online in spring 2010
COIN78.03 meets Thursday (TBA) from 6:00 to 8:00 (hybrid lecture)
Instructor: Robert D. Cormia
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Web: <http://fgamedia.org/faculty/rdcormia/COIN78/>

Course description:

This course provides an introduction and overview of XML, including writing well formed and valid XML, the use of DTDs and XML schema for validation, CSS and XSLT for formatting, and advanced topics in XML including XPath, XLink and XPointer, RDF, and Web services, and SOAP. You will submit assignments comprising at least five XML files, and including an external DTD, XML Schema document, CSS and XSL for presentation. Extra Credit assignments for writing RSS and Google XML sitemaps are available.

Course goals and objectives:

- Be able to write well-formed and valid XML documents for publishing on the Web.
- Become familiar with Document Type Definitions (DTDs) and XML Schema (XSD), and how they are used to validate XML files for data integrity using XML parsers.
- Become familiar with Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and the eXtensible Style Language to render XML.
- Build a ten-file portfolio using XML, DTD, XSD, CSS, XSL, and HTML file types.
- Consider how XML as a meta-language and Web integration platform is affecting e-Business.
- Be familiar with XML as used in RSS, blogging, and RDF and the Semantic Web.
- Become familiar with Web services and SOAP, and the future of the 'Web as a platform'.
- Write metadata including Google XML sitemaps using XML.
- Understand how HTML and XHTML will intersect XML and the future of Web publishing.

Course requirements:

Students should have a good working knowledge of HTML, an introduction to the use of Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), and a good command of file organization. You should expect to spend roughly 5 to 10 hours or more outside of class working on each of your assignments. There are usually handouts; and you can also view PowerPoint presentations online. The web tutorials are critical to your success in the course. The class moves very quickly, so please stay organized, on track and on task. If you invest a reasonable effort you are guaranteed to succeed in learning to use and understand the fundamentals of XML. Additionally, you will develop skills in data modeling, and developing schema for organizing data.

Hybrid modality:

This course is offered 'hybrid' meaning that it is primarily an online course, but we may have a physical lecture for students to attend where we'll cover the important concepts, show examples, and answer questions that can't be easily or efficiently answered through email. The course materials for both sections are identical and online. Students should plan for ~5 hours of activity and lab time per week.

Textbook and recommended reading:

Recommended: **XML: Visual QuickStart Guide, 2nd Edition**, by Kevin Howard Goldberg, Peachpit Press, 2008. ISBN-10: 0-321-55967-3 [XML Pocket Reference](#), Robert Eckstein, O'Reilly & Associates; 1999, ISBN: 1565927095. Recommended: [XML.com: The Guide to W3C Schema](#), Eric van der Vlist, O'Reilly & Associates; ISBN: 0-596-00264-5. Recommended: [Teach Yourself XML in 21 Days](#), Devan Shepherd, Sams; ISBN: 0-672-32093-2.

Assignments:

Five assignments (and one extra credit assignments) and a final writing assignment are given in this class. Each assignment focuses on a specific aspect of XML, and each is worth 15 points or 15% of your grade. You will submit these files, including an XML file (.xml), a separate DTD file (.dtd) a separate CSS file (.css), a separate XSD file (.xsd) and a separate XSL file (.xsl) and the XML files that link to it. There are a total of 14 files that you will submit. Each of these assignments will have a separate web page describing what is needed, and sample files to help you start. The midterm comprises 25 questions, each worth one point, and the format is freeform answers. There are 5 extra credit points available as well. It is posted online. You will submit this as an electronic document in an RTF or text file format, and paste it into the ETUDES assignment window as well. Please don't forget to do the extra credit questions!

Class and lab participation: If enrolled in the physical / hybrid class, you are expected to attend all lectures (unless we have scheduled TBA). Online students may attend these lectures at anytime.

Course Assignments and Grading:

Assignment zero	1 point	due at the end of week one
Assignment one	15 points	due at the end of week three
Assignment two	15 points	due at end of week five
Assignment three	15 points	due at the end of week seven
Assignment four	15 points	due at the end of week nine
Assignment five	15 points	due at end of week eleven
Assignment six (EC)	15 points	can be submitted at any time
Writing assignment	25 points	due in the final week

90 - 100 points = A- to A+, 80 - 90 points = B- to B+, 70 - 80 points = C to C+, 60 – 70 points =D, 50 - 60 = F

Each assignment is due at the beginning of a week and late if not received by the end of that week. Late assignments are accepted but lowered by one grade if one week late. All assignments are 'in-progress' until we get them completely error free (for full credit). You must submit at least 50 points to earn a grade of 'F', otherwise you may be dropped, and given a 'W' (there are no 'automatic F's' in this course). Don't forget to paste a message for each assignment in ETUDES (assignments 1-5 and extra credit) that you have emailed me the files to work on. Otherwise I cannot score / record your points in ETUDES.

Office hours: My "virtual" office can be reached by electronic mail, at rdcormia@earthlink.net and I normally respond to e-mail in 24 hours, Monday through Friday, 48 hours on weekends. Always put COIN78 and a 'meaningful topic' in the subject line (do not 'recycle' subject lines). Office hours on campus are Monday afternoon in 4129, *by appointment only*. Please do not send attachments other than .xml, .rtf, .txt, .zip, and image files. Attachments larger than 250 Kbytes may be deleted.