

IT111 Week 5 Podcast

Hello and welcome to the Week 5 Podcast for IT 111.

In this podcast I'll to make some announcements, recommend a good web design and usability book, and talk about the Chapter 5 Assignment.

First, the announcements. I'll be doing some traveling in the next couple weeks. Of course, I'll have my computer with me and I don't expect to have any significant periods when I can't be online. But, I will have a couple travel days when I might not respond to you as quickly as I normally do. I'm planning to conduct a real time, virtual session on Wednesday evening at 7pm. I want to demo the Firefox Web Developer tools that I keep raving about. They'll make the Chapter 5 assignment so much easier to do.

I was very pleased by the final project plans that were submitted on Sunday. As usual, there is a lot of variety in topics and I'm looking forward to seeing the completed web sites. One of the pages in the final project web site must include an XHTML form. We'll cover forms in Chapter 9 during week 9. To help you think about how you might incorporate a meaningful form, check out some of the project examples from former students. There are six final projects linked from the course home page and a couple more are available from the Final Web Site Project instructions page.

The book I want to recommend is *Don't Make Me Think: A Common Sense Approach to Web Usability*, 2nd edition by Steve Krug. It's a little pricey (\$40) but there are two copies in the library at NSCC. You could borrow it before you make a decision to purchase it. Amazon has new copies starting at \$26, though. One of the things I like best about the book is the visual examples. He shows screen snapshots of web pages and how they would be improved by following his guidelines.

Chapter 5 is on web design and the assignment for this week is writing a critique of one of three web sites (the Woodlawn Park Zoo, the National Geographic, or the National Design Museum) using the principles and best practices discussed in the chapter. You'll be posting your critique and responses in Angel Learning in the Quizzes and Discussion section. When you respond to other students' critiques, be respectful and courteous. Your responses should be thoughtful and meaningful, too (hint: good job on your critique wouldn't qualify) and you'll need to post responses to at least two other critiques in order to get the full 20 points for the assignment.

Please note that your critique is due by 11:59pm on Friday, May 8. This will give you a couple days to look at the full critiques on the same site you've selected before adding your response. Responses to other critiques are due by 11:59pm on Sunday, May 10.

I posted a short YouTube video that gives a few more tips on the Chapter 5 Assignment that I hope you'll watch. And, don't forget to watch the PowerPoint lecture.

The textbook web site has some good examples of the principles the author discusses so I encourage you to check it out as well.

Well, I guess that's it for this podcast. Thanks for listening and tune in next week for another IT 111 podcast.