

IT111 Week 8 Podcast

Hello and welcome to the Week 8 Podcast for IT 111.

In this podcast I'd like to make some announcements and introduce the Chapter 8 assignment.

First, the announcements. I've decided to extend the deadline for the Final Project Part 3 Assignment from Sunday, May 31 to Sunday, June 7. You'll still have two full weeks to complete your final project and I promise to review this assignment very quickly. In Part 3 you'll be creating a template for your final project. It should include the color scheme, navigation, and the images you'll include on the home page. You'll use your template for generating all the other pages in your final project web site and it must validate for both XHTML and CSS.

I'm going to order course evaluations this Friday and I wanted to give you a quick heads up about them. On June 7th, they'll be sent to the email address you have on record with the college. They are completely anonymous and I am not able to see them until after I've submitted my grades. I hope you'll take the time (probably less than five minutes) to complete yours. In addition to standard evaluation questions, you'll have an opportunity to make suggestions for improving the class. I depend on getting good ideas from current students to make the class better for future students. If you haven't received your evaluation by June 8th, check your spam or junk mail folders. And let me know right away if you don't find yours so I can order another one for you. This is really important to me so please fill out your evaluation.

Students often ask about other Web development related classes available at North. One I'm highly recommending is ART 210 - Computer Art taught by Mark Meyer. This class is only taught on campus but Mark is a fabulous instructor and he'll teach you how to create graphics for the Web along with many other types of graphics. If you are interested, you should register right away for his class. I noticed that it is almost full even though registration has just started.

Another good class is CSC 110 Introduction to computer programming. This is a basic programming class taught with JavaScript and as you may have noticed, many web sites use JavaScript to enhance and add functionality to them. This summer there are two sections offered and the online course is almost full. Once again, I recommend you register for it right away if you are interested.

Next weekend I'll be in Oregon watching my nephew graduate from college. I'll be taking my computer and we are staying in a place that has Internet access. But, I might not be a quick to respond as I normally do. This trip will be my last for the quarter.

Chapter 8 covers XHTML tables. In the olden days, web developers used tables for two main purposes. First, to organize data or information. I'm sure many of you have used tables in Word for this same purpose and are familiar with the concept of rows, columns, and cells in Excel. XHTML tables are still used to visually organize information on a web page.

A second purpose in the past was for page layout - what we've been doing with CSS was formerly done with tables. Sometimes the table structure would get very complex with tables nested inside of tables. The code could be very cumbersome and bulky. People using screen reader devices would have a terrible time navigating and understanding a page that used nested tables for layout.

In Chapter 8 you'll learn the basic tags for coding tables and then how to apply CSS rules for formatting them. Here's a tip. If you're having problems with a table, add a one pixel border to it. It's much easier to tell if you've forgotten an ending cell or row tag when you have a visible border around the table.

Don't forget to watch the narrated lecture presentation for Chapter 8 and the short YouTube movie with some tips.

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