

Memo

To: Professor Eyman
From: Sharon O'Boyle
Date: May 8, 2014
Re: Preliminary Project Proposal

Purpose

The purpose of this site is to describe the courses that I have taken and to showcase the work that I have done since re-enrolling in college in Spring 2013. I selected this project because once the site is developed I can potentially use it as part of a graduate school or employment application process. I intend to demonstrate my wide variety of interests and abilities. Outside the scope of this class, perhaps I can continue to expand the website with professional experiences, etc.

Product

The product will be a site that describes the classes that I have completed and shows the work that I have produced in each class. I have completed 5 courses and there will be a section/page for each course. I will think about each course to determine the best approach to take for each course. For example, I expect that the section for "Introduction to Classical Music" will be very different from "Database Fundamentals."

Audience

There are 3 potential audiences:

(1) Potential graduate schools or employers could use the website as an additional assessment tool.

(2) My friends and family (many of whom think I am a bit crazy to return to school) are interested in what I am doing. This would help them understand how I am spending all this time.

(3) George Mason Students who are considering taking any of these classes could refer to the site to get my impressions and to get an idea of what is involved in the class.

I will talk to a few individuals in each group to get their insights into how I should design my site.

Functional Specifications and Content Requirements

At the minimum, my site will have text, images and links to my papers/presentations and GMU course catalog content. The content needs to be clearly presented and easily navigable. It would be nice to add some additional things – links to music, and/or simulations and/or some interactivity, but that might be beyond the scope of this project.

Similar Sites

I did not find any sites that are exactly what I plan to do, but here are some sites with some similarities:

<http://mayonaengdahl.myefolio.com/intro>

This site is the closest I could find to what I plan to do. This is a portfolio of a returning student so there are some things in common with my situation. She actually writes about all her classes, like I am planning to do. But she does not go into the depth that I plan to because she includes a lot of additional types of information.

<https://sites.google.com/a/mail.usf.edu/michael-s-calzadilla/home>

Of all the sites I looked at, this is the most attention-grabbing for me and I think this is a very important aspect. I like the simple navigation on the left side and the idea of providing links to the relevant school webpages.

<https://scholar.vt.edu/access/content/group/97b91a99-7258-44a2-8002-9b7c83a84bd5/WebDev/Website/Gallery/EnglishGallery/2011/KimberlyB/index.html>

I like the overall academic appearance of this website: having the school and department at the top and using the graphic of books to denote major of English. It has a clear simple navigation across the top.

<http://eportfolios.ithaca.edu/gaddico1/>

This site has a clean look, professional look. For most of the main pages, most of the content fits on the page and not much scrolling is required..

Tentative Project Timeline

Project Timeline	
2/24/2014	Project Proposal Draft Due
3/3/2014	Final Project Proposal Due
3/10/2014	Spring Break
3/17/2014	Content for each page determined
3/24/2014	User feedback received. Main page drafted.
3/31/2014	Pages 1 and 2 drafted.
4/7/2014	Pages 3 - 5 drafted.
4/14/2014	Revise pages. Work on Report.
4/21/2014	Revise pages. Work on Report & Presentation.
4/28/2014	Revise pages. Work on Report & Presentation.
5/5/2014	Final Project Presentations begin; Project Report Due
5/12/2014	(Final Exam Day) Final Project Presentations finish; All Work Due