PROJECT 2: CSS

In this assignment we are going to begin working with Dreamweaver and more specifically with CSS. We will explore CSS by creating our own CSS garden. In this assignment, you will be creating a style sheet or theme for a provided page. The goals of this assignment are to play: to play with your ideas, imaginations, and style sheets. I do not expect that all of your ideas will come to fruition. What I do expect is for you to look closely at CSS, its design possibilities, and consider how you might be able to use it more fully in the future.

You will want to check the website CSS Zen Garden (http://www.csszengarden.com), a site where graphic designers have an opportunity to create beautiful pages and experiment with the possibilities offered to designers by CSS. Many of the sites on the page are intricate and far beyond anything expected of the class in the short space of time we have. CSS Zen Garden is a place where designers manipulate a style sheet to create visually stunning pages based on the same exact HTML code.

As with designing for the Zen Garden, you can change the style sheet statements for the file provided but not the selectors (nor can you add new selectors). You cannot change the HTML page at all. That means keeping the tags and text exactly as they are when you download it to your own computer.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Browse through the CSS Zen Garden current designs to get an idea of what people have been doing. While our content will be different, the same ideas apply. Do not just copy one of the existing CSS stylesheets from the CSS Zen Garden. This is considered cheating.
2. Come up with a theme of your own for the html document I provide to you. You want to consider your font choice, colors, and may want to create images for use. You may want to sketch out your ideas before beginning.
3. Create a folder on your desktop called Project 2. Download the provided html and place it inside the Project 2 folder. Your stylesheet will also go in this folder when you create it. If planning to use images, you should also create an images folder to place your images inside.
4. You will want to take a moment to look at the html structure of the page provided. Identify what tags you will need to target when you begin building your stylesheet in order to create your design.
5. Begin creating your first stylesheet. Your stylesheet should be name yourname.css. Be sure to test or preview it as you create the different CSS rules. You do not want to wait until you are all done to check your progress.
6. Once you have completed your stylesheet, copy your Project 2 folder into your folder on class shares. You should now have two folders on your class shares—one for Project 1 and one for Project 2.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Files should be placed in a folder in your class shares labeled Project2. Inside that folder, you will have the html document I provided you with, your CSS stylesheet—named yourname.css, and an images folder if using images. Note: Web file names ABSOLUTELY cannot have spaces in them. It may work on your desktop, but will not work when moved to a live server. Naming files and putting them in the specified places is part of your grade.

Don't forget that you are required to make 15 wiki posts over the course of the semester. If you find something that helps fix a problem or a resource that may be helpful to your classmates, you should post it to the wiki. Likewise, you can post if your have trouble with something and want to see if anyone else found a solution. This should be a resource for you.

DUE DATES
We will have a preliminary critique on January 27.

Project should be submitted on January 29 at the start of class. We will critique the projects in the next class. Please be prepared to participate in the critique and explain your work.

QUESTIONS
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Office Hours:
Varies, but I will be available on campus Mon, Tues, Wed, and Thurs.