

INLS 760
Web Databases
Spring 2009

Section: Tuesday evenings, 6:00 – 8:30pm, Manning 214

Instructor: Dr. Robert Capra
Office: Interaction Design Lab (in the Manning stacks)
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4-6pm, and by appointment
Email: r<lastname>3 at unc dot edu

Prerequisite(s): INLS 572 or equivalent, INLS 623 and programming experience

Optional Textbooks: *PHP and MySQL Web Development*
Welling, L., and Thomson, L., Sams Publishing
ISBN: 0-672-32672-8

Web Standards, Programmers Reference
Schafer, S., Wiley Publishing, ©2005.
ISBN: 0-7645-8820-6

Course Webpage: http://www.ils.unc.edu/courses/2009_spring/inls760_001/

Grade Weighting:

Item	Weight	Due Date(s)
In-class exercises	10%	Various dates
Projects	70%	Various dates
Midterm exam	10%	Feb 17, in-class
Final exam	10%	TBA

1. Course Description and Prerequisites

From the SILS course description:

INLS 760 (259): Web Databases

Prerequisites: INLS 572 or equivalent, INLS 623 and programming experience.

Explores concepts and practice surrounding the implementation and delivery of Web-enabled databases. Students will gain experience with and evaluate PC and Unix Web database platforms. (3)

2. Course Objectives

- Solidify understanding of web protocols and standards: HTTP, HTML, CSS, CGI.
- Gain practical experience using a “LAMP” (Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP) environment to implement web databases
- Learn techniques for dealing with security, user authentication, web transactions, and session management.
- Gain practical experience using ASP to implement web databases.
- Work with Javascript and DOM client-side technologies in a web database context.
- Introduce Ruby on Rails and understand how it supports rapid development

3. Hardware and Software Requirements

Three main development environments will be used in this course: 1) "LAMP" – Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP, 2) Active Server Pages (ASP), and 3) Ruby on Rails. Although you have access to these through your SILS computer accounts, you are encouraged to install and configure a LAMP environment on your own computer. Do NOT un-install your current operating system – you can run LAMP in a "virtual machine" so that it will not interfere with your existing operating system. The instructor will discuss options for running a LAMP environment on your own computer during the first class sessions.

4. Graded Work

Your grade will be based on in-class exercises, project assignments (mostly programming), a midterm test, and a final exam, weighted as shown on the table listed under “Grade Weighting” on the first page.

In-class exercises

This course will introduce you to a number of new concepts and technologies. In-class exercises will be designed to help you learn concepts from the lectures that will be needed to complete the programming assignments. The exercises also help the instructor gauge understanding of the material.

Project assignments

Project assignments are where you will gain most of the “hands-on” experience with the concepts and technologies that are covered in this course. These assignments will require you to use new technologies to implement features important to web databases. The assignments will often involve a mixture of programming and database work. As is the case with many programming-oriented assignments, these are likely to require a significant amount of implementation and debugging time each week.

Exams

There will be one mid-term and one final exam.

5. Grading Policies

The following grade scale will be used AS A GUIDELINE (subject to any curve):

Graduate	Percentage	Undergraduate	Percentage
H	100-95%	A	100-90%
P+	94-90%	B	89-80%
P	85-89%	C	79-70%
P-	80-84%	D	69-60%
L	70-79%	F	Below 60%
F	69% and below		

This scale will be used as a GUIDELINE ONLY. The final grade scale may differ.

Due Dates and Late Work

Each assignment will have a due date and time and will include instructions for submission. Late submissions will not be given any credit if submitted after graded assignments or solutions have been released. Typically, a late penalty of 10% per day will be applied unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Requests for Extensions and Absences

Any request for an extension must be made, preferably by email, at least 24 hours prior to the due date. Written documentation is required for illness. If a serious illness prevents you from taking any of the tests, send your instructor an e-mail message, or a friend with a note, describing your condition before the scheduled test. Also, to establish a valid excuse for an illness you must get a note from a physician or the University infirmary. Before missing a test for any reason, you must make every effort to discuss the problem with your instructor before the day of the test.

Statute of Limitations

Any questions or complaints regarding the grading of an assignment or test must be raised within one week after the score or graded assignment is made available (not when you pick it up).

6. Course Communication (Website, Listserv, Blackboard)

Course Website

The official course website is at:

http://www.ils.unc.edu/courses/2009_spring/inls760_001/

It is the responsibility of every student to **check the website regularly** for announcements.

The Announcements section of the website will be the source for all **official announcements** related to the class. Your instructor may announce tests, assignments, or changes to assignments in class, but there is no guarantee or promise that such announcements will be made in class. The Announcements section of the website is the **only** official, reliable source for announcements, changes, etc. from the instructor. If something the instructor says in class conflicts with information posted by the instructor on the website, then the information posted on by the instructor **on the website takes precedence**. Verbal instructions are easily mis-interpreted, and they do not leave a documentation trail.

Listserv

In addition to the website, there will be a UNC listserv for this course: inls760@listserv.unc.edu

Blackboard System

Course grades will be posted to the Blackboard system available at:

<http://blackboard.unc.edu/>

The Blackboard system will be used primarily for posting grades and submitting assignments – it is unlikely that other course material or information will be posted there.

7. Honor Code

The UNC Honor Code is in effect for all work in this course.

Students often ask what is okay to talk about with other students and what is not. I do encourage you to help each other learn the course material – your fellow students can often be a great resource for learning. However, you should not discuss the details of a solution to an assignment with other students, and should never copy or share answers for an assignment with other students. It is okay to talk about course material with other students, but you should not discuss detailed solutions to assignments. **All work you submit should be your own.** One way to help insure this is that if you do discuss course material with other students, do not take any written notes.

8. Special Accommodations

If any student needs special accommodations, please contact the instructor during the first week of classes.