iTeachU

eLearning & Distance Education

iDESIGN

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HTML Basics

Take charge of your code.

HTML is the code behind what we see on web sites. Whether you realize it or not, every time you create online (make a Blackboard entry, publish to a website, post on Facebook, comment on a blog, etc.) you are using HTML. Web design has come a long way from the beginning when you had to hand code everything; usually we just have to fill out a form and our content magically appears. However, knowing some basic HTML can be really handy when you are trying to troubleshoot something that looks strange, for appearance, or for custom sites.

PAGE STRUCTURE

When you look at the source code of any web page (key command: CTRL+U or Option+CMD+U on most browsers), you will notice some common elements defining the overall structure of the page:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <title>Title of the document</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    Content of the document......
  </body>

</html>
```

The DOCTYPE tells the browser what kind of file it is. The head section is for non-visible components such as the title, description, keywords, and scripts. The body section contains all of the stuff you see on the page when viewed in a web browser.

TAGS

The code that distinguishes pieces of content from one another is called a tag. Tags are contained within the '<>' characters. For example, a paragraph is defined within the opening '<p>' and closing '</p>' tag.

Have a look at the following code:

```
<body>

  <h1>This is a heading</h1>
  <p>This is a paragraph of text. I end it
  with a close paragraph tag. </p>
  <p>This is my next paragraph, again, with
  an <strong>end tag</strong>.</p>
  <img src="http://bit.ly/bugimage"
  width="100" height="75" />

</body>
```

Notice that there are two types of closure '</p>' and '/>'. If text content is being used, you will need a full closing tag, for example: `<em>Everything between these two tags will be italic.</em>`. However, when inserting an image, you would use the '`<img`' tag that closes with '`/>`'.

STYLE

Style declarations - fonts, color, layout - are usually organized into a separate document called a Cascading Style Sheet (CSS). This document is linked to in the head section of the HTML page. To specify the style of a particular HTML element, a class or id is used. For example: `<p class="byline">byline text here</p>`

The byline class would then be defined in the CSS like:

```
.byline {color:#99111; font-style:bold; padding:3px;}
```

Sometimes you might see some styles listed in the head or inline with the rest of the HTML page code.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Here are a couple resources to help get you started:

Codeacademy - learn HTML interactively, for free.
http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/web

w3schools.com - self education for learning how to make websites http://www.w3schools.com

UAF
UNIVERSITY OF
ALASKA
FAIRBANKS

Contact us at: http://elearning.uaf.edu/go/iteachu-contact