

J326C, J395 - Intro to Coding for Journalists
08910, 09285
Fall 2022

Class Meets: 6:00pm-9:00pm, Tuesdays, DMC 3.210 (In Person)

Instructor: Jeff Linwood

Pronouns: (he/him/his)

Email: jeff.linwood@austin.utexas.edu

Communication: UT Data Slack

Office: N/A

Office Hours: Thursday, 6:00pm-7:00pm, Virtual/
Zoom, or by appointment.

Course Description

University Catalog Course Description

(J326C) Restricted to journalism majors. The basics of coding for journalism. Learn necessary coding skills to perform in digital newsrooms, from simple things like HTML and CSS to display beautiful online presentations, to more sophisticated tools like interactive news graphics. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. [Journalism 326C](#) and [339T](#) (Topic: Introduction to Coding for Journalists) may not both be counted. Prerequisite: [Journalism 310F](#) and [311F](#) with a grade of at least B- in each.

(J395) Contemporary social, professional, and intellectual concerns with the practice of journalism. Three lecture hours a week for one semester, or as required by the topic. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing; additional prerequisites vary with the topic.

Topic 65: Introduction to Coding for Journalists. The basics of coding for journalism. Learn necessary coding skills to perform in digital newsrooms, from simple things like interactive news graphics to more sophisticated tools like machine learning. Journalism 395 (Topic: Introduction to Coding for Journalists) and 395 (Topic 65) may not be counted.

What will I learn?

- Learn the basics of HTML markup and CSS styling
- Understand principles of accessibility to make content available for everyone
- Working with team mates on a project using version control with Git
- Learn the basic principles of programming with the Javascript programming language
- Create your own interactive micro-site using a static site generator

How will I learn?

This class meets weekly, with the evening session generally split into an instructional half and an applied exercise half. In addition to the required weekly meetings, there will be introductory material to cover on your own time between class meetings. The instructional half of the class will reinforce the concepts from the introductory material. The applied exercise half of the class will be used for weekly assignments, quizzes, or work on special projects.

How to succeed in this course

This class will reward students who ask questions when they run into problems with the course material. Much of this might be new to you, and that is expected.

In addition, you should expect to keep up with the weekly material, and if you fall behind, to ask the instructor for help catching up. The assignments generally build on each other, leading up to a special project that uses all of the skills you learned in the class.

Attending at least one office hour or outside of class meeting is a small part of your grade. These meetings are all virtual until further notice due to the current situation. I am flexible about office hour times, and you can work with me to schedule these.

Course Requirements

Required Materials

No textbooks or course materials are required to be purchased for this class. Several free sources will be used for learning materials in this class. Some of these have optional premium purchases for advanced topics. These are not required to succeed in this class.

Required Devices

You should expect to use your own personal computer or laptop for assignments in this class. You also should be able to use the lab computers around the University of Texas, but you may need to use an online development environment if the required software is not available.

For students, we will require using free software throughout the semester that you should be able to run on any modern personal computer (Windows, Mac, or Linux). Please ask the instructor if you have any concerns about the software we use in the class.

The free software needed for the first 2 months of the class:

- Microsoft Visual Studio Code (<https://code.visualstudio.com/>)
- Google Chrome (<https://www.google.com/chrome/>)

For the final project, you will need to install Node.js (<https://nodejs.org/en/>) locally, or use a cloud environment to complete the class. Other requirements will be discussed at the time of the project.

Classroom expectations

While in class, I expect your full attention to the class. Generally speaking, during the instructional portions, you may have laptops or lab computers open, but I would appreciate it if you were focused on the class material and not other sites.

When we are in the applied exercise part of the class, standards are more relaxed, as the burden will be on you to get the needed work done.

We will take a short break in the middle of class.

Grading for this Course

The following table represents the assignments in this class.

Most assignments will be due on Sunday at midnight Central Time. The exception is the final project, which is due on Friday, December 2 at midnight.

Assignments	Points possible	Percent of Total Grade
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1. Join UT Data Slack	50	5%
2. HTML Assignment	100	10%
3. Office Hours Meeting	50	5%
4. CSS Assignment	100	10%
5. Responsive Web Assignment	150	15%
6. Beginning Javascript	100	10%
7. Intermediate Javascript	150	15%
8. Final Project Plan and Outline	50	5%
9. Final Project	250	25%

Course Outline

All instructions, assignments, readings, rubrics and essential information will be on the Canvas website at <https://utexas.instructure.com>. Check this site regularly and use it to ask questions about the course schedule.

Changes to the schedule may be made at my discretion and if circumstances require. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced (although I will do my best to ensure that you receive the changes with as much advanced notice as possible).

Week	Date	Class Topic	Out of class activities (Completed before Class)	Assignments due (Sunday unless noted)
1	8/23	Course Overview, Classroom Introductions, Intro to Web Development and HTML		
Unit 1: HTML, CSS, and Responsive Design				
2	8/30	Introduction to HTML		
3	9/6	Introduction to CSS	HTML Lessons at Code Academy	Join UT Data Slack (9/11)
4	9/13	Advanced HTML and CSS	CSS Lessons at Code Academy	HTML Assignment (9/18)
5	9/20	Responsive Design with Bootstrap	Bootstrap Lesson at Code Academy	CSS Assignment (9/25)
6	9/27	Understanding Accessibility		Attended Office Hour or Outside of Class Meeting (10/2)
7	10/4	Working with Git and Version Control	Git Lesson	Responsive Web Assignment (10/9)

Unit 2: Programming with Javascript				
8	10/11	Introduction to Programming Concepts		
9	10/18	Beginning Javascript Programming	Javascript Lessons at Code Academy	Beginning Javascript (10/23)
10	10/25	Web Application Programming with Node.js and Javascript		
11	11/1	Using the Site Generator and Introduction to the Final Project		Intermediate Javascript (11/6)
Unit 3: Final Project				
12	11/8	Final Project Discussion, Course Work		Final Project Plan (11/13)
13	11/15	Final Project work		
14	11/22	No Class - Fall Break/Thanksgiving Week		
15	11/29	Final Project work		Final Project (12/2) - This is a Friday

Policies

Classroom Statements and Policies

Statement on Learning Success

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need to be adaptable because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT. Many are listed on this syllabus, but I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

Statement on Flexibility

In acknowledgement of COVID 19 and its impact on the University of Texas at Austin community, this course will reaffirm one of the core values here at UT Austin: responsibility. Our responsibility to ourselves and each other is to put our humanity in the forefront of our academic pursuits. With that being said, this semester I commit to being adaptable in this time of great need, which is reflected in the course policies below around attendance, grading, and assignments/exams.

If you experience any hardships such as illness, accident, family crisis please know that these policies may be amended and therefore you should communicate with me as soon as you feel comfortable doing so. If for any reason you do not feel comfortable discussing with me, please visit [Student Emergency Services](http://diversity.utexas.edu/student-emergency-services/). For additional campus resources, please visit protect.utexas.edu.

Personal Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name, unless they have added a "preferred name" with the Gender and Sexuality Center, which you can do so here: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/publications-and-resources/>. I will gladly honor your request to address you by a name that is different from what appears on the official roster, and by the gender pronouns you use (she/he/they/ze, etc). Please advise me of any changes early in the semester so that I may make appropriate updates to my records. For instructions on how to add your pronouns to Canvas, visit <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/profile-pronouns>.

Grading Policies

As I hope you can see, flexibility is built into the assignments to support your success in this course. If you miss a smaller assignment or don't do as well on your earlier journal entries, your grade will not be impacted significantly. Consequently, the final grades are firm, and no additional curve is available.

Grade	Cutoff	Points needed
A	94%	940
A-	90%	900
B+	87%	870
B	84%	840
B-	80%	800
C+	77%	770

C	74%	740
C-	70%	700
D	65%	650
F	<65%	<650

Late work and grade periods

No late assignments will be accepted. However, this semester each student will have an “End of the week” grace period for two (2) assignments to be used at your discretion. “End of the week” is defined as Saturday at 9pm, so as long as you submit the assignment before that time, you will have used one of your two allotted “end of the week” grace periods and no points will be taken for lateness.

(For example: The assignment is due Sunday at midnight. If you turn it in that Tuesday at 1:00pm, you will have used one of your “end of the week” grace periods. Similarly, if you turn it in on Friday at 3:00pm you will have used one of these grace periods.)

Absences

Being present is critical to achieving our goals for this course. You are welcome to utilize one (1) class absence during the semester as needed without explanation to me. In this case, you will be allowed to make up assignments you may have missed during this session.

Excused Absence: Absences will be considered excused if they are for religious holidays or extenuating circumstances due to medical or family emergencies. If you plan to miss class due to observance of a religious holiday, please let me know at least two weeks in advance. You will not be penalized for this absence, although you will still be responsible for any work you will miss on that day if applicable. Check with us for details or arrangements.

If you have to be absent, use your resources wisely. Ask your classmates to get a run-down and notes on any lessons you miss. If you find there are topics that we covered while you were gone that raise questions, you may visit during office hours or schedule a meeting to discuss. Email specific questions you have in advance so that we can make the most of our time. “What did I miss?” is not specific enough.

University Resources and Supports for Students

Services for Students with Disabilities

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please refer to SSD’s website for contact and more information: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

Counseling and Mental Health Center

The [Counseling and Mental Health Center](#) serves UT’s diverse campus community by providing high quality, innovative and culturally informed mental health programs and services that enhance and support students’ well-being, academic and life goals. To learn more about your counseling and mental health options, call CMHC at (512) 471-3515.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, call the CMHC Crisis Line 24/7 at (512) 471-2255.

The Sanger Learning Center

Did you know that more than one-third of UT undergraduate students use the Sanger Learning Center each year to improve their academic performance? All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center’s classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses

in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

BeVocal

BeVocal is a university-wide initiative to promote the idea that individual Longhorns have the power to prevent high-risk behavior and harm. At UT Austin all Longhorns have the power to intervene and reduce harm. To learn more about BeVocal and how you can help to build a culture of care on campus, go to: <https://wellnessnetwork.utexas.edu/BeVocal>.

Wellbeing Resources

[Longhorn Wellness Center](#) resources for self-care
[Virtual Mindfulness and Stress Reduction Activities](#)

Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Libraries: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/>

ITS: <http://www.utexas.edu/its/>

Student Emergency Services: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

UT University Health Services: <https://healthyhorns.utexas.edu/>

Important Safety Information

COVID-19 Update: While I will post information related to the contemporary situation on campus, you are encouraged to stay up-to-date on the latest news as related to the student experience. <https://protect.utexas.edu/>

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call BCCAL (the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line): 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn't feel right – it probably isn't. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency

Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.

2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's [relevant policies](#).

Beginning January 1, 2020, Texas Senate Bill 212 requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, report any information to the Title IX Office regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive any information of this type (including, but not limited to, writing assignments, class discussions, or one-on-one conversations) must be reported. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you would like to speak with someone who can provide support or remedies without making an official report to the university, please email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit <http://www.titleix.utexas.edu/>, contact the Title IX Office via email at titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

Although graduate teaching and research assistants are not subject to Texas Senate Bill 212, they are still mandatory reporters under Federal Title IX laws and are required to report a wide range of behaviors we refer to as unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, including the types of conduct covered under Texas Senate Bill 212. The Title IX office has developed supportive ways to respond to a survivor and compiled campus resources to support survivors.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: *"As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."* **Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT.** Therefore, if you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following web address: <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/standardsconduct.php>

Q Drop Policy

If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information about Q drops in general, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>. For

COVID-19 Updates

For the most up to date information on learning during COVID-19, including guidance about safety, cloth masks in classrooms, and classroom guidelines, see <https://protect.utexas.edu/learning/>.