

SUPPORTING INTERNET BASED COURSES WITH MICROSOFT FRONTPAGE

Robert Workman

The Microsoft FrontPage web page editor was used to create web based course components such as course syllabus, student assignments, and tests questions. Students in the course create their own Internet webs that contain their personal course homepage, assignment solutions, and answers to test question. These course components are accessed using the WebCT learning management system.

The students WebCT homepage, shown in Figure 1, contains links to the course components. The course calendar shown in Figure 2 contains links to day by day activities. A click on a topic such as “Finish word Project 4” brings up the course outline show in Figure 3. The course outline is presented as collapsible hierarchical bulleted list. A click on one of the topics expands the topic. The picture bullets were selected from FrontPage themes. Other course components that can be accessed from the WebCT homepage are mail, grades, and quizzes.

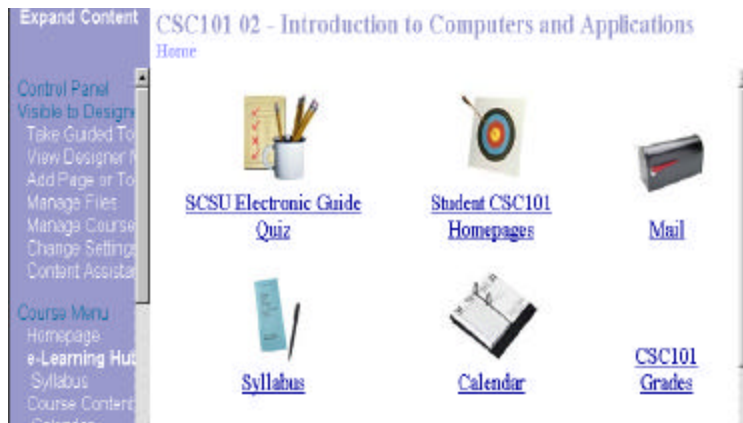


Figure 1. Part of the WebCT student homepage

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 - Lab Class Do SCSU Electronic Guide Quiz 8:00Am to 12:00 PM	3	4 - Lab Class finish Word Project 4 more...	5	6 - Work on Internet Site Writeups	7

Figure 2. Part of the course calendar as displayed in WebCT

Southern Connecticut State University

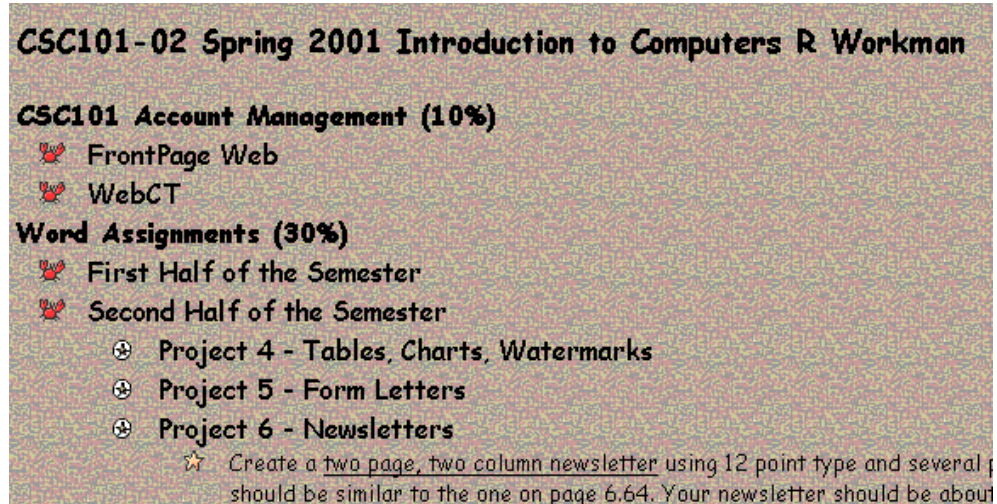


Figure 3. A collapsible list with second half, project 6 expanded.

At the beginning of the course students are given accounts on the schools server. Students are instructed in how to set up an online web using FrontPage. Students add links on their homepage to their completed assignments. Figure 4 shows a navigation view of the contents of a student web. Figure 5 shows the same homepage viewed with the Internet Explorer browser.

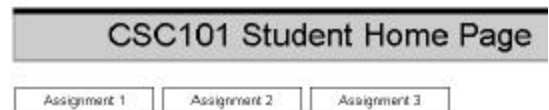
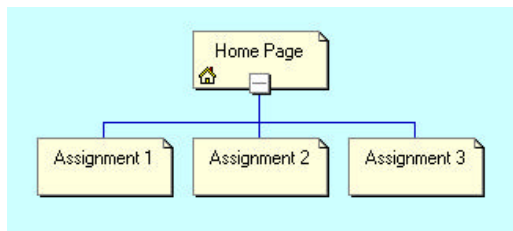


Figure 4. Navigation view of a student web. Figure 5. Student course homepage

WebCT provides a convenient and confidential way to submit grades to students. Figure 6 shows an example of the instructors view of student grades. Grades can be entered manually or objective question quizzes can be graded automatically. A formula can be written to compute midterm and final grades. Figure 7 shows such a formula.

CSC101 02 - Introduction to Computers and Applications

[Home](#) › [Manage Course](#) › [Manage Students](#) › [Calculation Editor](#)

Calculation Editor: MidTermGrade

Formula

```
([[Quiz 1]+[Quiz 2]+[Midterm Quiz]+5*[Assignments])/8
```

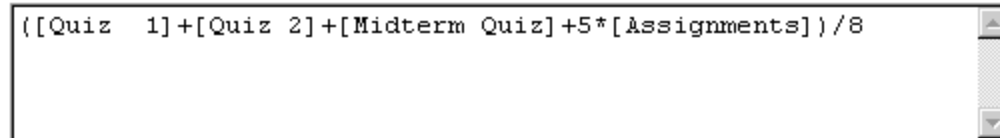
A screenshot of a web browser window showing a 'Calculation Editor' for 'MidTermGrade'. The editor has a title bar 'Formula' and a text input field containing the formula '([[Quiz 1]+[Quiz 2]+[Midterm Quiz]+5*[Assignments])/8'. The input field has a vertical scrollbar on the right side.

Figure 7. A WebCT grade calculation formula

Conclusion

Student access course material written with FrontPage by way of the WebCT course management system. Students create FrontPage webs that contain assignment and test solutions. Advantages to doing this include: unlimited copies available, ease of updating, available for prospective students and others interested in the course, and hyperlinks to related material. Inquires about the course are answered thoroughly with a web address. What goes on in the course is also available to colleagues, school administrators, parents, and publishers. The ease of updating course materials is useful. Hyperlinks in the syllabus to related material are used to provide access to supplementary online material. Creating course material with a web editor and organizing access to the material with a learning management system create a learning environment worth considering.