**Lesson 1: Getting Started**

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

In order to understand web design, you must understand 3 programming languages:

1. HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) – How a site is structured
2. CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) – How a site looks
3. JavaScript – How a site acts

Over the next few months, you will be learning how to use each language (or, only HTML is you are only taking the Web Design portion of this course), starting with the most important – HTML. Without HTML, there would be no website at all.

* **Watch the Video:** “The Importance of HTML” from “HTML Essential Training” with James Williamson (this can be found inside the Shared > Hammond > Hand Out > Web Design folder).

**The Learning:**

***Opening Discussion***

*Read over the questions and their answers below:*

Question: What is a website?

* Answer: A type of plain-text file that can be read by two types of programs – the site creation software (ex. Notepad, Dreamweaver) or a Browser (just like a .PSD file can be read by Photoshop only). Web files have the extension, “.html.”

Question: What does HTML stand for and what does it do?

* Answer: Hyper Text Markup Language; it allows the user to add tags to the text he/she is typing in order to create the webpage’s structure. The tags tell the browser HOW TO DISPLAY the page’s content (text or graphics).

Question: What does Syntax mean?

* Answer: The set of rules that defines how a language is written. In English, syntax refers to grammar, spelling, capitalization and sentence structure. In HTML, syntax refers to the same types of things – but for code!
* **Element** – Consists of a complete combination of a start tag, content, and end tag
* Ex. <p> This is the content of the paragraph element. </p>
* **Tag** – Used to mark up the start and end of an HTML element
* Ex. A start tag with no attributes: <body>
* Ex. A start tag with an attribute: <p bgcolor=“#ccffcc”)
* Ex. An end tag with no attributes: </body>

***Basic Terms***

Click the link below, then read through the Chapter 2 page only:

* **Chapter 2:** [**http://www.goodellgroup.com/tutorial/chapter2.html**](http://www.goodellgroup.com/tutorial/chapter2.html)

Here is what you really need to know :

* Tags/elements: TAG ORDER MATTERS!
  + **Nesting** (like [Russian Matryoshka dolls](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matryoshka)): tag order matters; tags can and must be nested in certain instances (ex. all tags must be nested within the <html> tags, <title> tags must be nested within the <head> tags)
  + **Container Tags:** Come in pairs – one open/one close
  + **Empty Tags**: Stand alone – only open/no close
  + **Case Sensitivity** (for the most part, html is not case sensitive, but it is best to stick with lowercase or uppercase for consistency. Lowercase is most commonly used). When writing tags, use all lowercase/no symbols/no spaces. When writing text within the opening and closing tags, use whatever formatting you want (since this will appear on the site as content, rather than structure)

**The Doing: *Yay! You have nothing to do for Lesson 1 ☺ Proceed to Lesson 2!***