CGS 3175: Internet Applications Fall 2009

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) - Part 1

Instructor: Dr. Mark Llewellyn

markl@cs.ucf.edu

HEC 236, 407-823-2790

http://www.cs.ucf.edu/courses/cgs3175/fall2009

School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science University of Central Florida



Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)

- In 1996 the W3C recommended the adoption of a standard set to style sheets, Cascading Style Sheets level 1 (CSS1).
- The original purpose of CSS was to provide HTML authors with more formatting support and give them a way to apply uniform styles to multiple documents.
- Cascading Style Sheets level 2 (CSS2), introduced in 1998, included additional features and functionality.
- CSS work with XHTML the same way they work with HTML. Web browser support is widespread with Netscape Navigator 4.5 and above, and Internet Explorer 3.0 and above all supporting CSS.



Why Use Cascading Style Sheets?

- The primary reason for using CSS is to separate a document's content from its presentation. In so doing it provides the document author with much greater control over the document's format.
- Keeping the content and presentation information separate also allows you to change your presentation layout or method without having to modify the documents themselves, and allows you to apply one style sheet to any number of documents.
 - For example, an organization could produce a price list document and then develop different style sheets depending on the type of user who is viewing the content whether they are using a web browser or a palm pilot.



Separating Content From Presentation

- Web development is rapidly heading toward this idea of separating content from presentation. The XML family of technologies already clearly defines the boundaries between content and presentation, as we've already discussed. XHTML Strict does not provide support for many of the strictly presentational elements, such as HTML's element.
- The strictly presentational elements that are part of the XHTML Transitional and XHTML Frameset versions of XHTML 1.0, including the element, are primarily included for backward compatibility with existing HTML content. Because XHTML Strict does not include many of these presentational elements in its element set, it relies on style sheets to define the presentational styles. XHTML Strict most closely represents the direction XHTML is heading. The W3C recommends that new content development should center around XHTML Strict whenever possible in order to be most compatible with future technologies.

CSS Syntax

- CSS contain rules and declarations that instruct a program, such as a Web browser, how to display certain elements.
- There are many styles that can be applied to XHTML documents. The CSS specification is extremely large, so we will cover only a subset of its styles and declarations in this course. As you get more experience you will add more and more features from CSS to be incorporated into your Web documents.



Defining Styles

- In order to use a style sheet with your XHTML document, you need to tell your document where to locate the style definitions. There are three ways to define styles:
- 1. Linked Style Sheets: Style definitions in linked style sheets are stored in a file separate from the XHTML document.
- 2. Global Style Sheets: Style definitions in are stored in the XHTML document global style sheets itself within the <style> element.
- 3. Inline Styles: Inline styles are applied to a single element within the start tag of the element.



Linked Style Sheets

- Linked Style Sheets: Style definitions in linked style sheets are stored in a file separate from the XHTML document. Linked style sheets provide style definitions to many documents each document simply has to reference a single style sheet.
- The syntax for a linked style sheet declaration in an XHTML document is:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="mystyles.css" type="text/css" />
```

• The link> element is used to define the style sheet. The link> element is an empty element and **must** be contained within the <head> element of an XHTML document.



Linked Style Sheets

- The **rel** attribute specifies this link> element to be a link to a style sheet.
- The href attribute, like that for the <a> (anchor) element, specifies the location of the style sheet file on the system. Both relative and absolute URLs can be used as the value for the href attribute.
- The **type** attribute declares this style sheet to be a plain-text file containing CSS styles.



Linked Style Sheet - Example

```
C:\Courses\CGS 3175 - Internet Applications\Fall 2009\e...
File Edit Search View
                       Format Language Settings
                                                  Macro
                                                         Run
TextFX
        Plugins
               Window
               sample style sheet 1.css 📙 new 3 📙 XHTML illustrating CSS cascade.
          /* A simple linked CSS document */
          /* file name: sample style sheet 1.css */
          р
              { color: blue; }
          h1
             { color: red; }
Ln:8 Col:7 Sel:0
                             Dos\Windows ANSI
                                                        INS
```



Global Style Sheets

- Global Style Sheets: Style definitions in global style sheets are stored in the XHTML document itself within the <style> element. They <style> element **must** be contained within the <head> element.
- The syntax of a global style sheet is:

</style>

Notice that the section where the global styles are defined is contained within an XHTML comment. This is to hide the actual contents of the style definition from older browsers that don't support CSS. The comment tags are not necessary to make CSS work, but if they are not provided in an XHTML document, older Web browsers may actually display the style property definitions on the Web page!



Global Style Sheet - Example

```
C:\Courses\CGS 3175 - Internet Applications\Fall 2009\example code - new\CSS - Part 1\XHTML illustrating CSS cascade.html - Note...
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX Plugins
                                                                                                             X
  ] 🔒 🗎 🖺 🤚 🥱 🥱 🕒 | 🔏 🏗 🖿 🕩 🖟 🖟 🖊 🗩 😅 📥 🕍 🖟 🖟 🖊 🔀 🔁 🗎 🐪 🐪 🕞 🕟 🕟 🕞 🕞
        XHTML illustrating CSS cascade.html | hw2part1 - complete - internal CSS.html
                                                                                                           4 >
         <!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"</pre>
             "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
       <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
             <head>
               <title>XHTML Document Illustrating CSS Cascade</title>
               <link rel="stylesheet" href="sample style sheet 1.css" type="text/css" />
               <!-- This is a global (intenal) style sheet -->
               <style type="text/css">
  10
                   p (color :red)
  11
                                                                      A global style sheet
               </style>
             </head>
             <body>
Hyper Text Markup nb char: 1589 nb line: 32
                                               Ln:30 Col:8 Sel:0
                                                                                 UNIX
                                                                                           ANSI
                                                                                                         INS
```

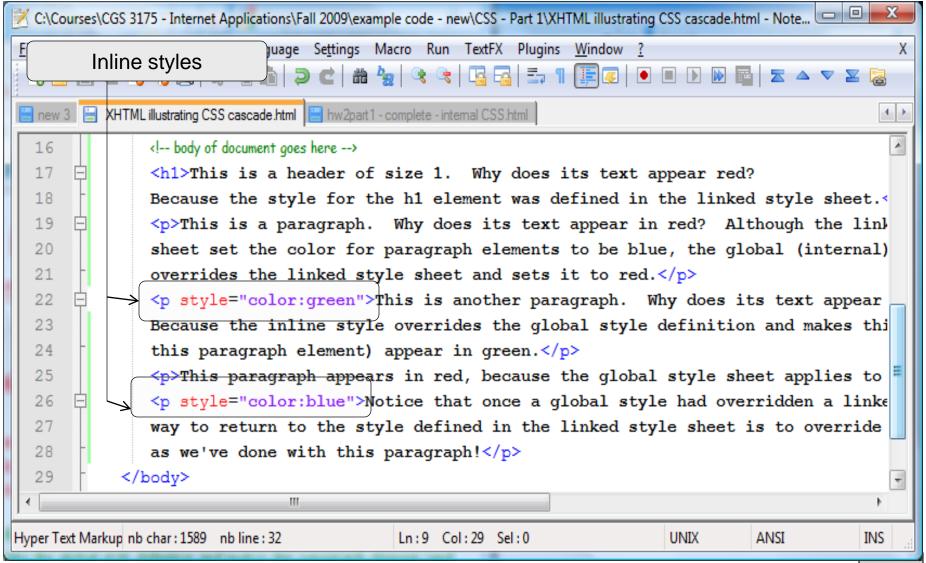
Inline Styles

- Inline Styles: Inline styles are applied to a single element within the start tag of the element.
- For example, if you wanted to assign certain properties to the text within a paragraph, you would include style definitions like the following:

```
    paragraph text
```

• We've already used this style of CSS in a couple of our earlier examples.

Inline Style - Example





Style Precedence

- An XHTML document can get its style information from any of the three style definition methods, or from a combination of any or all of them.
- When a style is defined in more than one place for a particular element the definition that is closest to the element itself is used.
 - For example, suppose that an XHTML document references a linked CSS file that defines style properties for the <h1> element, setting its font color to blue. The document then defines a global property within its <style> element that sets the font color for <h1> to red. Finally, a particular <h1> element within the document defines its font color to be purple by using the style attribute. Which style will be displayed in the browser? Will the font appear in blue, red, or purple? Answer: purple.

Style Precedence

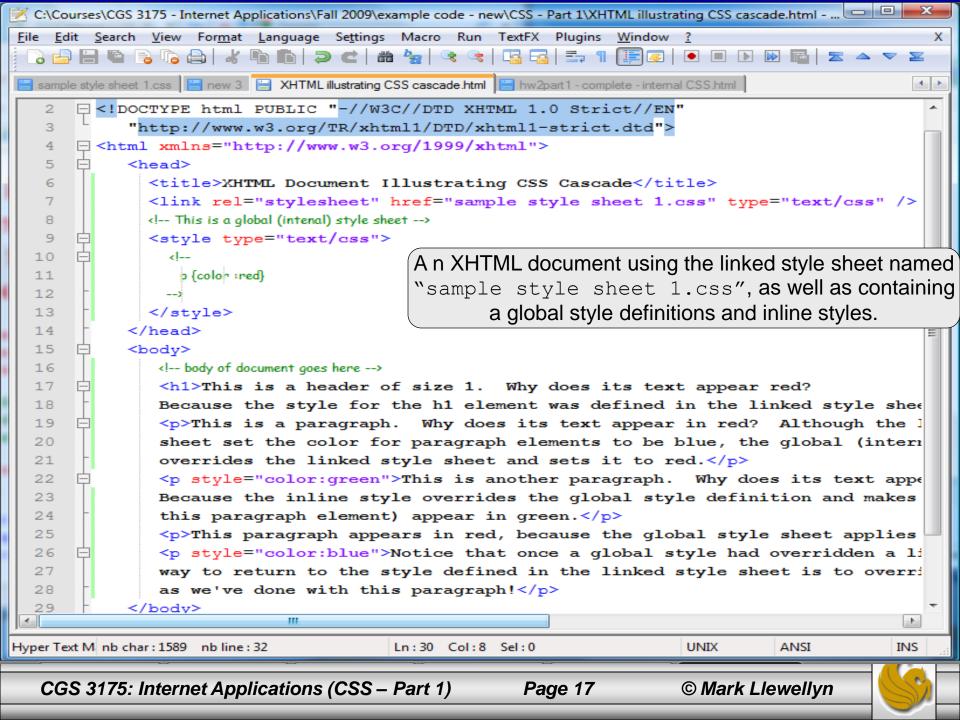
- Inline styles on particular elements override global styles defined in the <style> element or in linked CSS files.
- In turn, global styles defined in the <style> element of an XHTML document override style settings from linked CSS files.
- This is the "cascade" in CSS!

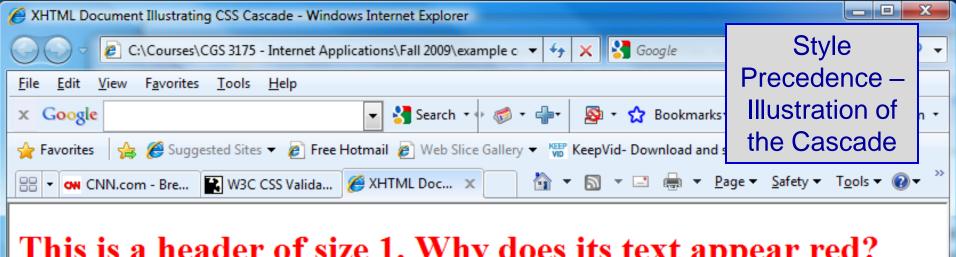


Style Precedence – Illustration of the Cascade

```
📝 C:\Courses\CGS 3175 - Internet Applications\Fall ... 🖳
         Search View Format Language Settings
File
     TextFX Plugins Window
Run
               🔚 commentform.html 📙 sample style sheet 1.css 🖆
          /* A simple linked CSS document */
          /* file name: sample style sheet 1.css */
          p
             { color: blue: }
          h1
              { color: red; }
                            III.
Ln:8
    Col: 7 Sel/
                                                   INS
                   A linked style sheet named
                "sample style sheet 1.css"
```







This is a header of size 1. Why does its text appear red? Because the style for the h1 element was defined in the linked style sheet.

This is a paragraph. Why does its text appear in red? Although the linked style sheet set the color for paragraph elements to be blue, the global (internal) style sheet overrides the linked style sheet and sets it to red.

This is another paragraph. Why does its text appear in green? Because the inline style overrides the global style definition and makes this paragraph element (and only this paragraph element) appear in green.

This paragraph appears in red, because the global style sheet applies to this paragraph.

Notice that once a global style had overridden a linked style for a given element the only way to return to the style defined in the linked style sheet is to override the global style using an inline style as we've done with this paragraph!

√□ ▼ □ 100% ▼ 📭 Computer | Protected Mode: Off Done

© Mark Llewellyn

Page 18

Style Precedence

- The ability to override styles gives developers a lot of power.
- For example, a developer could use a linked CSS file for the common formatting properties for all of the documents on a Web site. If one particular document needed special formatting properties, the developer could define global styles within that document without affecting the rest of the documents. The same is true for individual elements. A developer who wanted all of the <h1> elements in a document to be blue would define this in the <style> Element or in a linked CSS file. If one particular <h1> element needed red text, the developer could define the red style on that particular element, which would override the blue setting of the other <h1> elements.

CSS Properties

- There are many types of CSS properties:
- 1. Font properties define font styles such as font family or type, size, weight, and variant.
- 2. Text properties define the layout of blocks of text, words, or characters, including spacing, alignment, transformation (forced uppercase or lowercase), and decoration (such as underline, overline, strikethrough, and blinking).
- 3. Color and image properties define the color and background formatting of text and images. These properties can also define the position of a background image and whether the image is repeated (tiled).
- 4. Border properties define the style of borders for elements like tables and images, as well as for the entire document. Border properties include width, height, style, color, margins, and padding.
- 5. Display properties define the style for the structure of the document. These properties can define the placement of elements within the document, such as block or inline, and how whitespace is formatted within the document.



Font Properties

Property	Description	Value Example(s)
font	Global font declaration. Can define all font properties in one property.	<pre>font-family, font- style, font-weight, font-size, font- style</pre>
font-family	Font type to display text.	arial, courier
font-size	Size of font in pixels or as a percentage.	<pre>small, x-small, medium, large, x-large</pre>
font-style	Style of font.	italic, bold, oblique
font-variant	Font rendering.	normal, small-caps
font-weight	Darkness of font. Uses name or number.	normal, light, bold, bolder, 100, 200, 300, 400, etc.

Text Properties

Property	Description	Value Example(s)
word-spacing	Amount of space between words in an element.	normal, number of pixels
letter-spacing	Amount of space between letters.	normal, number of pixels
text-align	Horizontal alignment of text on page.	right, left, center
vertical-align	Vertical alignment of text on page.	<pre>baseline, sub, super, top, text-top, middle, bottom, text-bottom, percentage</pre>
text-indent	How much first line is indented.	0, number of pixels (i.e. 10 px), percentage (i.e. 10%)
text-transform	Change case of text.	uppercase, lowercase, capitalize, none
line-height	Amount of space between lines of text.	normal, number of pixels
text-decoration	Special controls of text appearance	underline, overline, blink, line-through, none

Color Properties

Property	Description	Value Example(s)
color	Text color	red, blue, color code
background	Global background declaration. Can define all background properties in one property.	background-color, background- image, background-position, background-repeat, background- attachment
background- color	Color of element's background	<pre>color name, transparent, inherit</pre>
background- image	Image to be used as a background.	URL, name of local file.
background- attachment	Scrolling of background image with the element.	scroll, fixed, inherit
background- position	Position of element's background.	top, center, bottom, left, right, percentage, number of pixels
background- repeat	Repeat pattern for background image (tiling).	repeat, repeat-x, repeat-y, no-repeat

Border Properties

Property	Description	Value Example(s)
border-color	Color of the border element.	red, blue, color code
border-width	Width of the border.	medium, thin, thick, number of pixels.
border-style	Style of the border.	none, solid, double
margin-top	Width of margin at the top of element.	0, number of pixels, percentage.
margin-bottom	Width of margin at the bottom of element.	0, number of pixels, percentage.
margin-left	Width of margin at the left side of element.	0, number of pixels, percentage.
margin-right	Width of margin at the right side of element.	0, number of pixels, percentage.
padding-top	Amount of padding at top of element.	0, number of pixels, percentage.



Border Properties (continued)

Property	Description	Value Example(s)
padding-bottom	Amount of padding at bottom of element.	0, number of pixels, percentage.
padding-left	Amount of padding on left side of element.	0, number of pixels, percentage.
padding-right	Amount of padding on right side of element.	0, number of pixels, percentage.
clear	Whether an element permits other elements on its sides.	none, left, right
float	Floating element.	none, left, right
height	Height of an element.	auto, number of pixels, percentage
width	Width of section	auto, number of pixels, percentage



Display Properties

Property	Description	Value Example(s)
display	Controls display of an element.	block, inline, list- item
white-space	Whitespace formatting.	normal, pre, nowrap
visibility	Controls visibility of element.	inherit, visible, hidden



CSS Rules

- CSS rules have two parts: a selector and a set of property declarations that define the style or styles that will apply to the selector.
- The selector can contain a single element, a class/id selector, or a list of selectors. Multiple selectors are separated by commas. For styles that have more than one property defined, each property is separated by a semicolon.
- The following page shows two examples of CSS rules, the first is an example of a rule that applies to a single element, in this case, the <h1> element, and the second rule applies to three elements, the <h1>, <h2>, and elements.

Page 27

CSS Rules – Examples

```
CSS rule applying to a single element.

h1 {
    color: black;
    font-size: 12pt;
    font-family: arial;
}
```

```
CSS rule applying to a three elements.

color:

font-si
```

```
h1, h2, p {
    color: red;
    font-size: 12pt;
    font-family: arial;
}
```



CSS Comments

• The syntax for comments in CSS is different than we've seen so far for XHTML documents (recall XHTML comments begin with <!-- and end with -->). Comments in CSS begin with /* and end with */. The following is an example of a CSS comments:

```
/* This is a comment in CSS */
   /* Comments can also
   span multiple lines */
```

- Web browsers and other processing applications ignore comments in CSS files.
- As with your XHTML documents, you should comment your CSS files.

CSS Example

- Before we go too much further in examining CSS, let's rework one of our earlier examples to include CSS.
- The very first XHTML document we created was a course description document (see XHTML Part 1 page 60). Let's create a CSS for this document.
- For this first example of CSS, we'll use a linked style sheet. Recall that this means the style definitions are stored in a file separate from the XHTML document. So let's create the CSS file and name it "firstCSS.css".



firstCSS.css

```
/* My first Cascading Style Sheet */
strong
          font-weight:bold;
          text-align: left;
          background-color: yellow;
          text-decoration: underline;
lί
      font-style:italic;
      color: purple;
ul
     list-style-type: square;
     font-size: x-large;
```



```
*C:\Courses\CGS 3175 - Internet Applications\Fall 2009\example cod...
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run TextFX
Plugins Window ?
   sample style sheet 1.css 📙 new 3 📙 XHTML illustrating CSS cascade.html 📙 mark 🔨 🗠
          /* My first Cascading Style Sheet */
          /* file name: firstC55.css */
    3
          strong
    4
    5
               font-weight:bold;
    6
               text-align: left;
               background-color: yellow;
    8
               text-decoration: underline;
    9
  10
          li
  11
  12
               font-style:italic;
  13
  14
               color: purple;
  15
  16
  17
          ul
  18
  19
               list-style-type: square;
               font-size: x-large;
  20
  21
nl Ln:20 Col:5 Sel:0
                                   Dos\Windows ANSI
                                                           INS
```

firstCSS.css



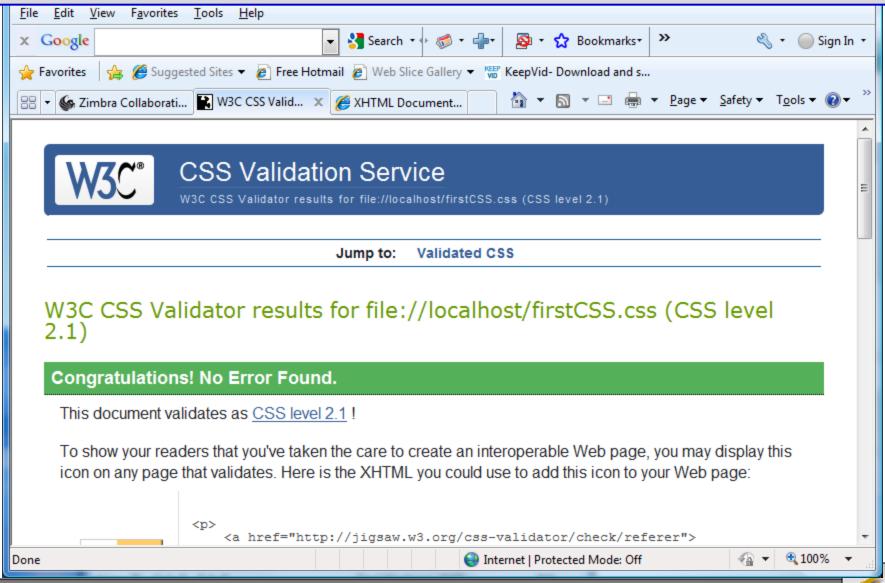
Validating Cascading Style Sheets

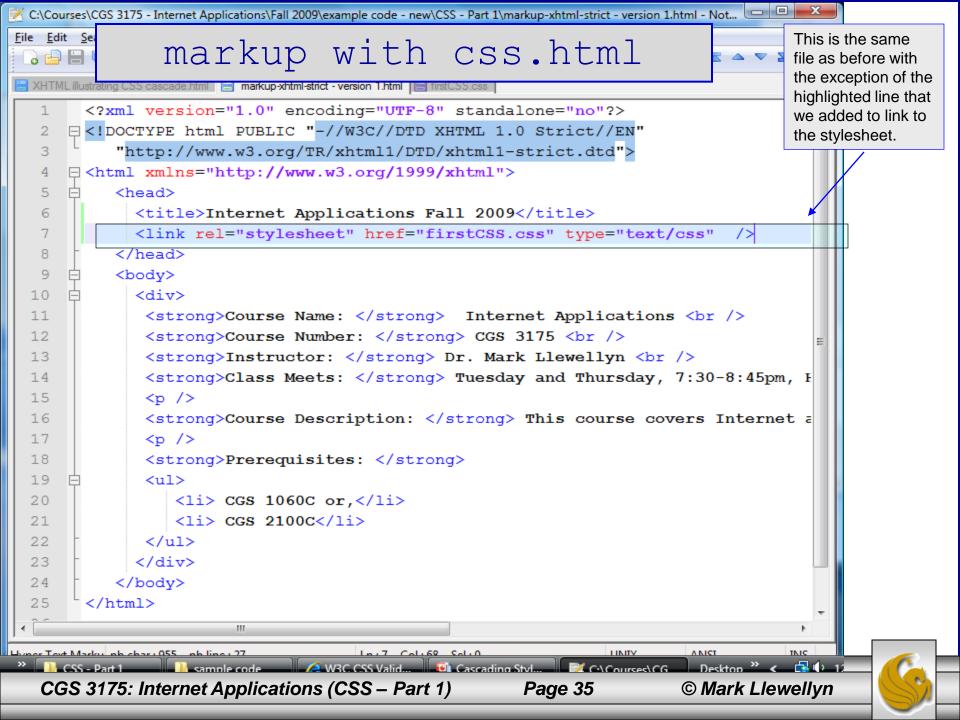
- The W3C provides a tool on its Web site that will validate CSS documents, much like the XHTML validator that we discussed in the first part of the XHTML notes.
- The validator is available at:

http:/.www.jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator.

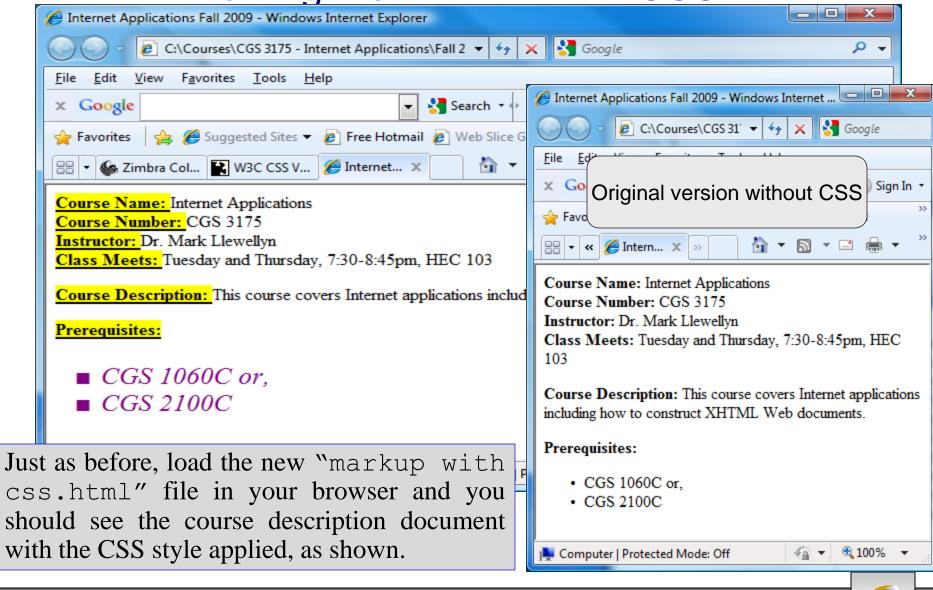


Validating Cascading Style Sheets





Viewing the XHTML With CSS

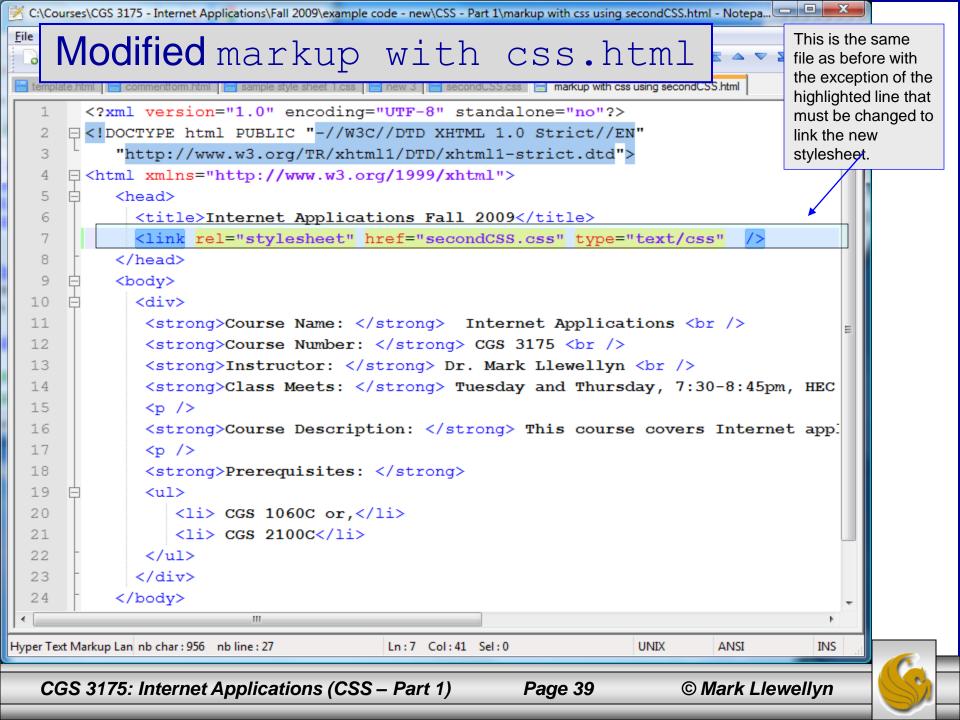


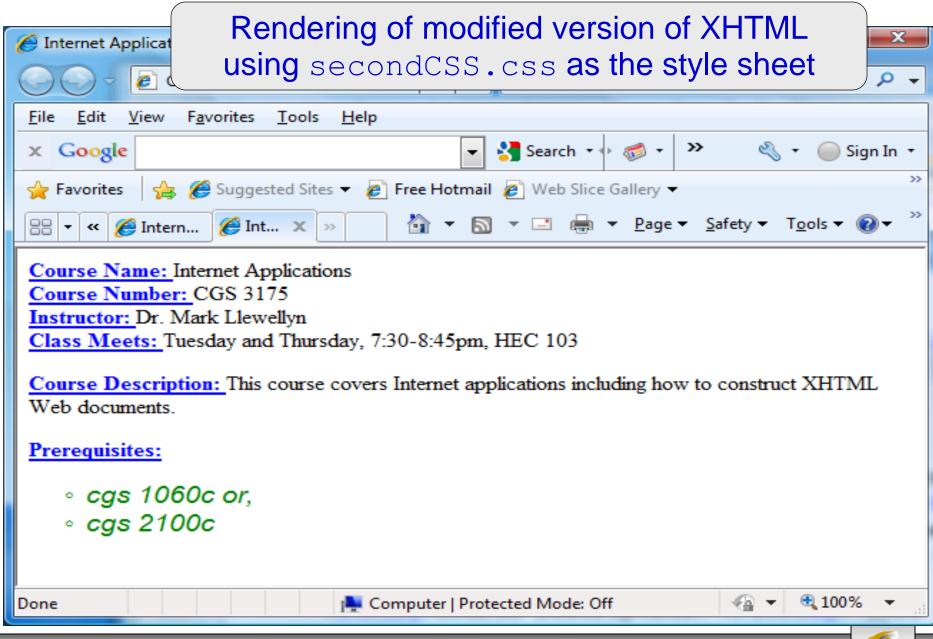
CSS Example 2

Before we go any further with learning CSS. I want to illustrate how CSS can be used to modify the presentation of an XHTML document without changing the XHTML markup. Using the same XTHML file from Example 1, we'll make another style sheet, this time called linked secondCSS.css. We'll change the way the various XHTML elements that appear in our document are presented by using different CSS rules to style the same document.



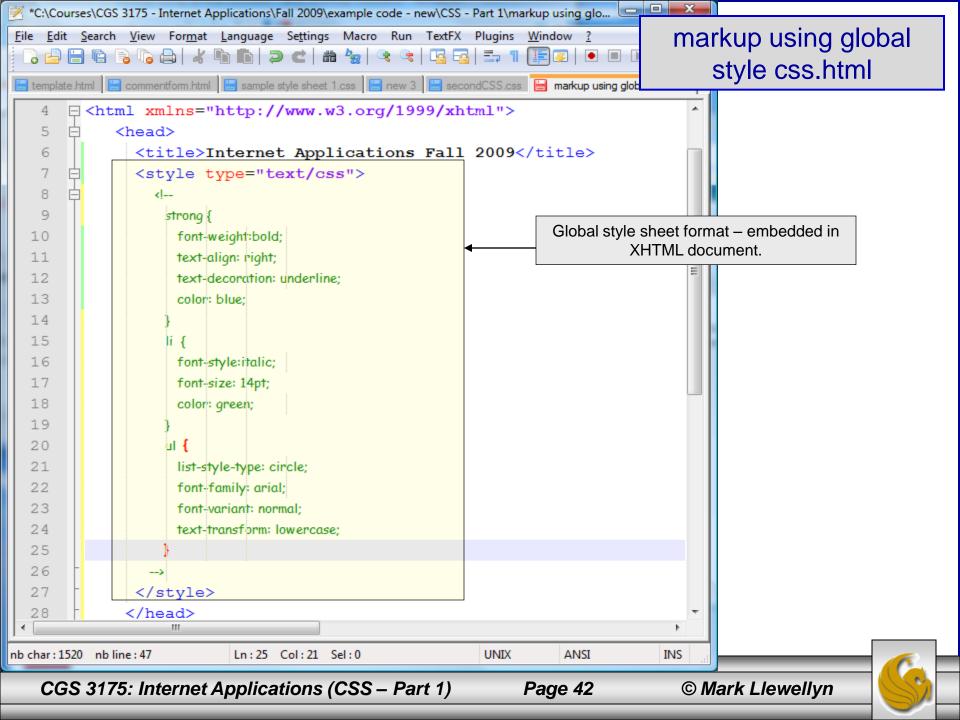
```
C:\Courses\CGS 3175 - Internet Applications\Fall 2009\example code - new\CSS - P...
File Edit Search View Format Language Settings Macro Run Text
                                                          secondCSS.css
Window ?
  3 🖶 🗎 🖺 🥫 😘 🖨 🛦 🕩 🖍 🤝 🗷
  sample style sheet 1.css 📙 new 3 📙 XHTML illustrating CSS cascade.html 📋 secondCSS.css
         /* My second Cascading Style Sheet */
         /* file name: secondC55.css */
    2
         strong
    4
    5
              font-weight:bold;
    6
              text-align: right;
    7
              text-decoration: underline;
    8
              color: blue;
   9
  10
         li
  11
  12
       □ {
  13
              font-style:italic;
  14
              font-size: 14pt;
  15
              color: green;
  16
         }
  17
  18
         ul
  19
       □ {
  20
              list-style-type: disc;
  21
              font-family: arial;
  22
              font-variant: normal;
  23
              text-transform: lowercase;
  24
nb char: 372 n Ln: 23 Col: 31 Sel: 0
                                           Dos\Windows ANSI
                                                                 INS
```





CSS Example 3

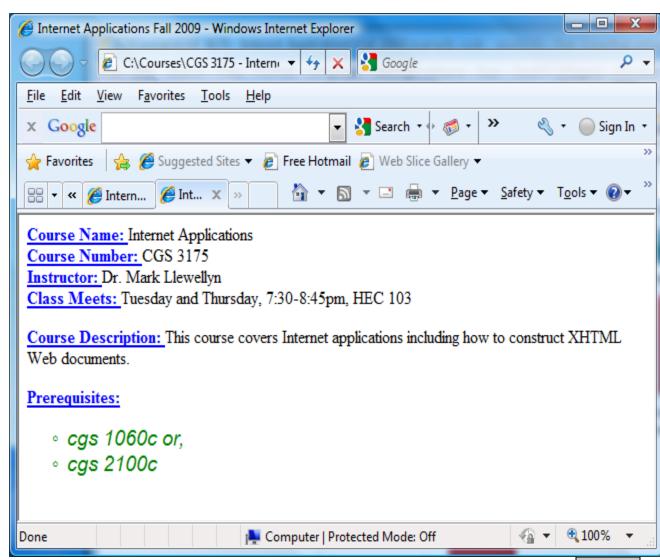
- Using the same XTHML file from Example 2, this time we'll use the global style sheet form, in which the style definitions are contained within the XHTML document.
- Notice that the output when viewed from a browser is no different than that when a linked style sheet was used.

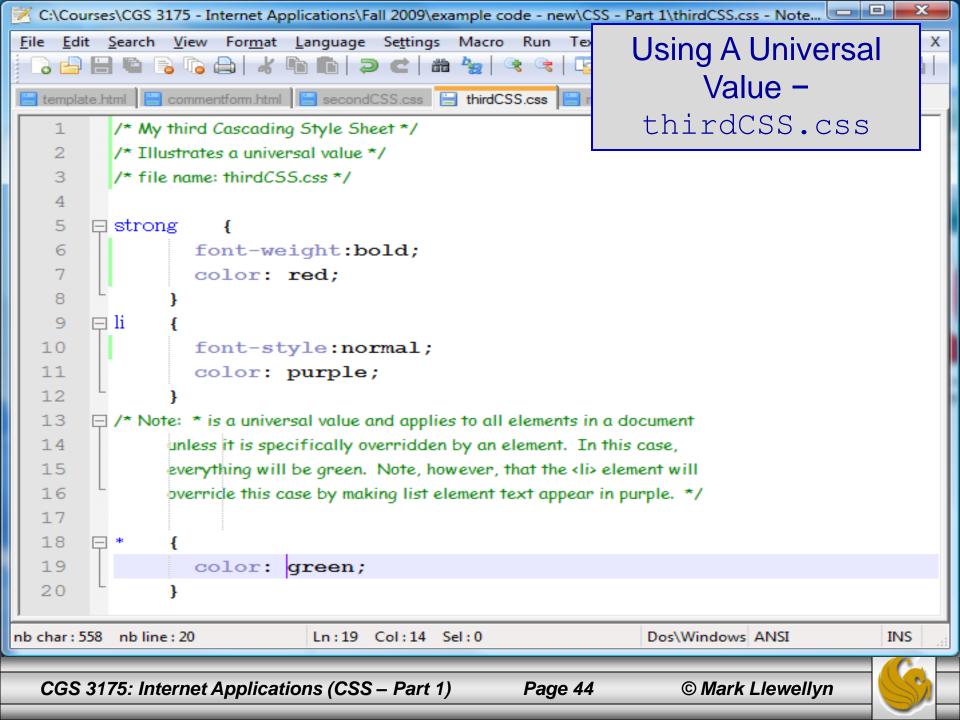


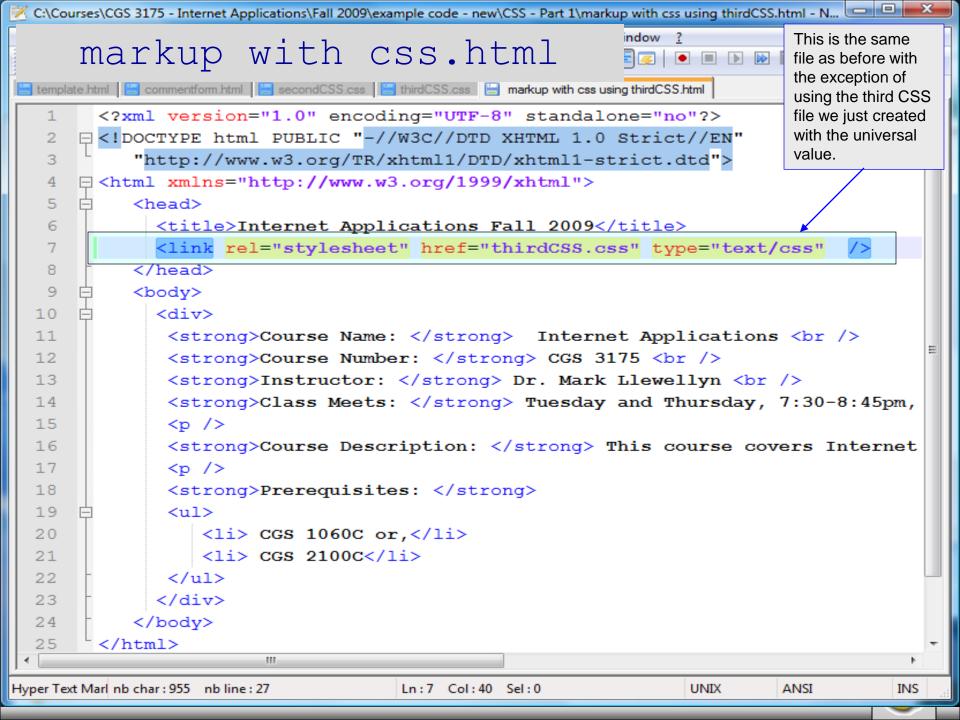
Viewing the XHTML With Global Style Format

Just as before, load the new "markup using global style.html" file in your browser and you should see the course description document with the CSS style applied, as shown.

Note that it is displayed exactly the same as was the case for the linked style sheet.





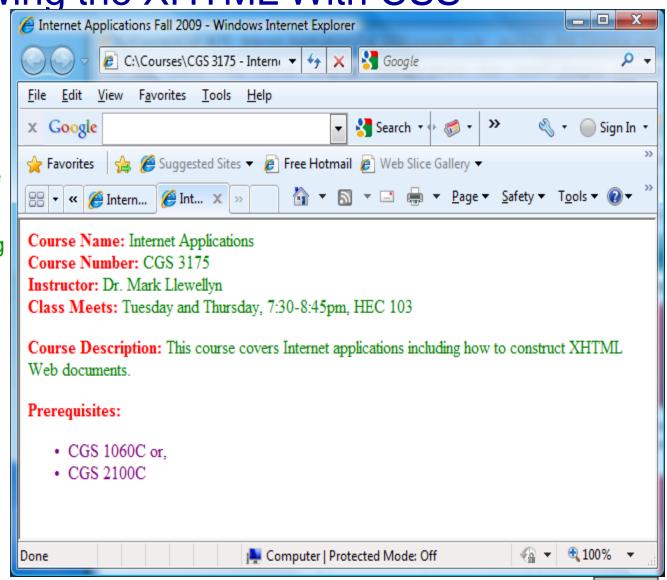


Viewing the XHTML With CSS

Just as before except using the style sheet "secondCSS.css:.

Note that all the text is green except for that in the list elements which was overridden by the declarations and the strong elements which were overridden by the declarations in thirdCSS.css.

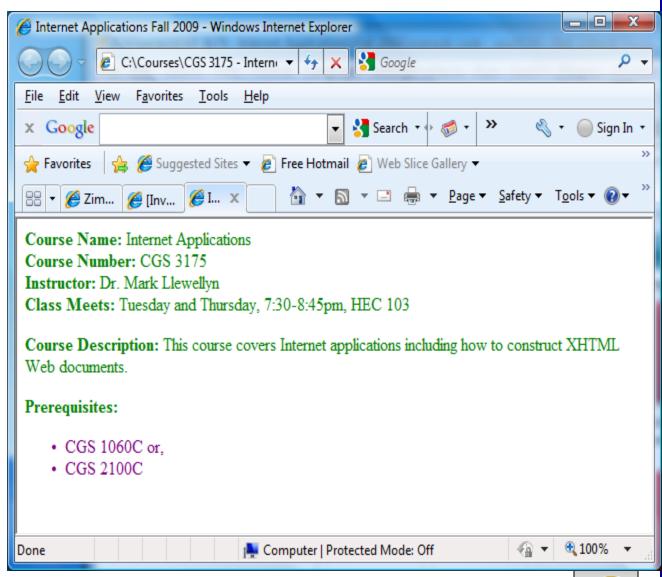
What would happen if you removed the color: red rule from thirdCSS.css? (see next page for answer.)





Viewing the XHTML With CSS

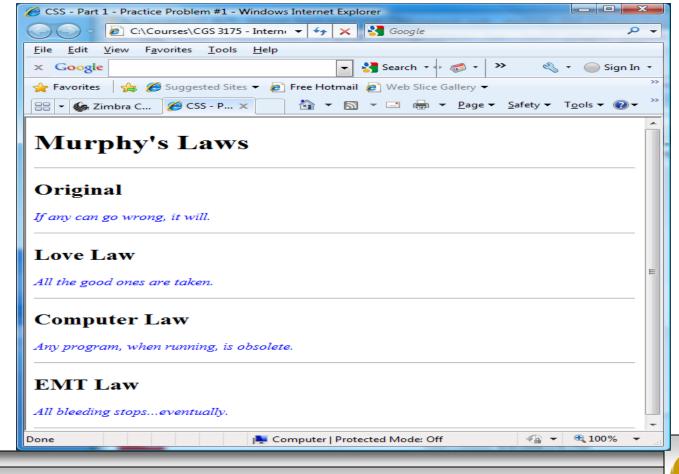
Since the strong element no longer styles the color to be red, it no longer overrides the universal value and thus the color of all strong elements will be the same as specified by the universal element – green! Only the list element which still styles the color to be purple will override the universal value.



Practice Problems

1. Modify the Murphy's Law XHTML document (XHTML – Part 2 – Practice Problem 1) so that it uses inline styles to make every one of the laws appear in blue text as shown

below.



Practice Problems

2. Modify the Murphy's Law XHTML document (XHTML – Part 2 – Practice Problem 1) so that it uses a global style sheet to make every one of the laws appear in red text and the title of the law appear in blue as shown below.

Murphy's Laws
Original
If any can go wrong, it will.
Love Law
All the good ones are taken.
Computer Law
Any program, when running, is obsolete.
EMT Law
All bleeding stopseventually.

Practice Problems

3. Modify the Murphy's Law XHTML document (XHTML – Part 2 – Practice Problem 1) so that it uses a linked style sheet named "css part 1 practice styles.css" to style the document as it appears on the next page. All the styles you need to do this appear in the tables on pages 21-23.



