

# Topic Overview: Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)

Computer Science 4173

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## 1 Purpose

- Successful students should understand CSS as a programming language with a semantic structure unlike languages they've used before (e.g. OOP, procedural, and event-driven), but similar to functional and pattern-based/logic-based languages;
- Students should understand the power of CSS for expression;
- Stress separation of form from content, and implication for accessibility.

## 2 Topics

- Syntax
  - rules and selectors
  - selector syntax
- Semantics
  - the cascade,
  - specificity,
  - concept of media,
  - forms in HTML and practical applications
  - concept of 'CSS hacks'
    - \* have effect of presenting different CSS rules to different browsers
    - \* done by exploiting browser bugs

## 3 Related Readings

- CSS 2.0 and 2.1 Standards
- Examples and lectures in class (and on website)
- Eric Meyer's article about quirk's mode (at the website)
- Tantek's blog post about CSS Hacks
- CSS and UI section of the website resources section

## 4 Major Concepts

- cascade
- inheritance
- selection
- specificity
- progressive enhancement
- degradation (graceful & catastrophic)
- external & internal stylesheets
- box model (padding, margin, width)