Activity (CSCI 344): Write your first HTML Page

1. Configure your computer

Install and Configure Visual Studio Code

1. Download and install Visual Studio Code (VS Code): https://code.visualstudio.com/
2. From within VS Code, install some plugins:
   a. "Live Server" (Ritwick Dey)
   b. "Prettier"
3. Turn off all AI features (CoPilot, ChatGPT, Claude, etc.): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avso94uh174

Install Node.js

1. Open a command prompt
2. Check to see if Node.js is installed:
   a. On Windows: Navigate to your command prompt (cmd, powershell or WSL – whatever you use) and type **node**
      - it will give you an error message if it's not installed.
   b. On Mac: Open your terminal and type node – it will give you an error message if it's not installed.
3. If node is installed, make sure you're using at least version 18. You can check by typing: **node -v**
4. If it's not installed install it here: https://nodejs.org/en/download/prebuilt-installer
5. Once you've installed it, verify that you've installed it by restarting your command prompt program and typing **node** at the command prompt. If it worked, you will be in "Node mode" and will be able to execute JavaScript (e.g., type 2 + 2).

2. Organize your files

Now that you're taking a computer science class, it's important to think about where you're storing your files. Please create the following file structure **EXACTLY as specified**:

```
csci344
    ├── tutorials
    └── lectures
        └── lecture04
            └── index.html
```

1. Create a course folder called **csci344** somewhere on your computer. Many people store theirs in Documents or on their Desktop.
2. Create a **tutorials** folder inside of your **csci344** folder.
3. Create a **lectures** folder inside of your **csci344** folder.
4. Create a **lecture04** folder inside of your **lectures** folder.
5. Today, you will be creating new files inside your **lecture04** folder

3. Create an index.html file

1. Open VS Code
2. Click the "File" menu (top left) and select/click "Add Folder to Workspace..."
3. Then, navigate to your **csci344** folder (wherever you saved it), select it, and click the "Add" button (i.e., add the whole folder).
4. When you're done, you should see all of the folders you just made in the left-hand panel.
5. Finally, right-click the **lecture04** folder and select "New File..."
    a. Name the new file **index.html** (all lowercase, no spaces).

4. Write some code

Please pick **ONE of the two options**, depending on your experience with HTML.

4.1. Beginner Option (for people new to Web Development)

1. Change the title of your webpage
2. Add a heading and a paragraph element (in the “body” section), and some text for each:
   a. https://csci344.github.io/spring2026/resources/html-02-text
3. Preview what you’ve made so far in LiveServer
4. Add 3 image tags (in the “body” section):
   a. https://csci344.github.io/spring2026/resources/html-04-images
5. Add a list (in the “body” section):
   a. https://csci344.github.io/spring2026/resources/html-06-lists-tables
6. Create a second HTML page called page2.html
   a. Add a hyperlink (relative path) that links from index.html to page2.html
   b. Add a hyperlink (relative path) that links from page2.html to index.html
   c. Refer to: https://csci344.github.io/spring2026/resources/html-03-linking

4.2. Experienced Option (for folks who already have experience)

In this class, you will be working on a lot of assignments that can be used as portfolio pieces that you can showcase more broadly (and most WebDev positions require that you make a portfolio). Why not start designing one now?!

1. Find 1-2 examples of websites or web portfolios that inspire you. Here are some examples you can browse:
   a. https://www.wearedevelopers.com/en/magazine/161/web-developer-portfolio-examples?utm_source=chatgpt.com
   b. Big list of online portfolios: https://github.com/emmabostian/developer-portfolios
   c. Even more: https://www.sitebuilderreport.com/inspiration/student-portfolio-examples

   How are they laid out? What content do they showcase? What’s your aesthetic (simplicity, maximal, etc.)?
2. Try making the simplest HTML page that you can think of with placeholder sections for the different kinds of content you would like to showcase (projects,

interests / bio, skills, etc.)

3. If time, see if you can use (or remember) how to enhance the layout of your webpage using CSS Grid / Flex + borders, background colors, fonts, etc.