# CS 328 HTML Coding Standards so far

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- You are required to use **"strict-style"** HTML for CS 328.

  - In general, your documents are expected to validate using the (X)HTML5 validator at https://html5.validator.nu or at https://validator.w3.org/nu when you paste in the URL of a copy of your page that has the suffix .xhtml (There will be a very few exceptions, which will be noted as the semester continues.)

  - (Note that W3C's experimental HTML5 validator is LESS strict than the class standards; it is good as a "first pass" for egregious issues, but don't assume your page meets the class standards on the basis of just that validator.)

- Remember that HTML's intent is to **describe a document's content and structure**, *not* how it should look or behave.

- All elements' opening and closing tags are to be written in **all-lowercase**.

- All elements are required to be both explicitly **opened** *and* **closed**.

  - For elements that *can* have content, **both** opening and closing tags are required.

  - For elements that *cannot* have content (**void** elements), their tag is expected to end in /> (so that it serves as *both* an opening and a closing tag).

- All attribute values are to be written **within quotes** (either double quotes or single quotes, although double quotes are preferred).

- All content within an HTML document must be **within an appropriate element**.

- Every HTML document is expected to include a **head** element and a **body** element.

- I am not requiring strict indentation standards for HTML yet (I am still trying to figure out a set that I like) -- avoid lines longer than 80 characters, and indent in some consistent, READABLE fashion.

- Use **semantic HTML** -- that is, choose which element to use based on what the content is, NOT how the element appears on the page!

  - (instead, use CSS as desired to change how elements appear on the page)

- Within an **a** (anchor) element, use link text content that **describes** the document being linked to.

- An **img** element must contain an **alt** attribute that is not empty, and contains text that can serve as an appropriate replacement for the image (see: https://html.spec.whatwg.org/#alt)

- Use the **code** element for small, in-line fragments of computer code; use a **code** element nested within a **pre** element for multi-line fragments of code (where you want preservation of indentation and white space).

- HTML forms should **not** use the **table** element for layout purposes -- CSS should be used for such layout instead. The **table** element should be only used for truly-tabular data.

- Since the **summary** attribute for a **table** element is now deprecated, you are expected to include a

**caption** element within each **table** element describing the table (to help with accessibility).

- It is also a course style standard to include a **scope** attribute for **th** elements, indicating if that header is the header of a row (scope="row") or of a column (scope="col").

• For a **form** element whose contents are to be submitted, include at least one explicit **input** element of type **submit** (a submit button).

• Use appropriate **label** elements within **form** elements to logically associate text with form widgets that should have text associated with them.

• Within a **form** element, choose form widget elements that are logically/semantically appropriate for the information desired.

- (e.g., use logically-grouped radio buttons when a user is selecting exactly one of a small number of options, use check boxes when a user may select 0 or more of a small number of options, etc.)

- Use an **input** element of type **password** for password/sensitive data entry situations.

• Each (logical) form widget "element" within a **form** element that is to have a value submitted should have a **name** attribute with a unique name value (unique within that form).