Creating a simple HTML page

1 Overview

- For this assignment, you will create an HTML file in a *text editor*.
  - on a PC, this is **Notepad** (not Wordpad)
  - on a Mac, this is **TextEdit** (in plain text mode, not rtf)
  - on Linux, this is **pico** or **emacs** or **vi**...

- Type your name in the files as *comments*.
  Comments in HTML are lines that begin with the tag: <!-- and end with -->.
  For example:

```
<!-- this is prof sklar's html file. -->
<html>
<body>
hello!
</body>
</html>
```

- **Save your work!!!**
  BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE LAB, make sure that you save your work (both HTML files and any images files you use) by storing them on a USB flash drive or by emailing them to yourself (ask me if you don't know how to do this).

2 Getting started

- Open the appropriate text editor for the type of computer you are using.
  In this file, you will write HTML code to do the things listed below.

- Start by creating the outline for the page.
  All HTML pages begin with a <html> tag and end with a <\html> tag.
  In between these tags, the page is divided into two parts: the *head* and the *body*. These tags also have "start" and "end" forms: <head> and </head>, and <body> and </body>.
  Things that go inside the head tags do not appear directly in the content of the page, but are used to control the page in various ways. The content of the page goes between the body tags.
  The page outline should look like this:

```
<html>

<head>
</head>

<body>
</body>

</html>
```

- Set the **title** of the web page by inserting title tags (`<title>...</title>`) inside the head tags. When you view the HTML page, the title will be displayed inside the browser window's top heading bar, not in the body of the browser's content.

```
<head>
<title>prof sklar's sample home page</title>
</head>
```

- Set the **background color** of the page to something other than the default (usually white) and the **text color** of the page to something other than the default (usually black).
  You can do this using the **body** tag and the **bgcolor** parameter, like this:

```
<body bgcolor="yellow" text="blue">
```

Note that you will be *modifying* the body tag that you put in above, not adding another one. There should be only one body tag in an HTML document.

- Display a heading that welcomes the user to your web page. This needs to go in between the body tags.

```
<body bgcolor="yellow" text="blue">

<h1>Welcome to Prof Sklar's home page!</h1>

</body>
```

- Save the file and name it with your last name followed by -**home.html**. For example, my file is called: **sklar-home.html**
  Note that some text editors, particularly on Windows, want to put a **.txt** extension after the **.html** extension. Don't do it.

- Try opening the file with a browser (like Netscape or Safari or IE) and see what your page looks like. In the browser, select **File - Open File...** and then enter the name of your HTML file (e.g., **sklar-home.html**).
  If any of the elements above don't work, go back into the text editor, and edit the file to fix them.
  Then reload the file in your browser.
  Keep doing this until everything looks just perfect :-)
  If you need help, ask me!!!

3 Adding content

- Between the heading (`<h1>...</h1>`) and the end body tag (`</body>`), add some text.
  All the page content goes in between the body tags.

```
<h1>Welcome to Prof Sklar's home page!</h1>

I'm having so much fun learning HTML!
```

4 Adding a list

- Now add HTML tags to display an **unordered list** of five of your favorite movies. For example:

```
My fave flicks are:
<ul>
<li> Casablanca </li>
<li> Diva </li>
<li> Bringing Up Baby </li>
</ul>
```

- Be sure to make the page user-friendly by putting in explanatory text telling what the list is (e.g., "Here is a list of my five of my favorite movies:").

5 Adding links

- A *link*, or "hyperlink", in HTML provides a means for going from one page to another. The link has two components:
  — one is the URL of the page that is being linked,
  — and the other is the text (or image) that the user will click on in order to follow the link.
  Here, we'll just put text for the user to click on.

- The HTML tag for a link is: `<a href=...URL...> ...CLICK... </a>`
  You need to replace the ...URL... with the location of the page you want to link and ...CLICK... with the text you want the user to click on in order to go to the linked page.
  For example:

```
<a href="http://www.amazon.com">amazon</a>
```

- Add links to each of the five items in your list of favorite movies. These could be links to the movies on Amazon or information on IMDB (`http://www.imdb.com`) or a trailer (e.g., `http://www.apple.com/trailers`) or some other relevant link.
  For example:

```
<ul>
<li> <a href="http://www.tcm.com:80/tcmdb/title.jsp?stid=568">
     Bringing Up Baby</a> </li>
</ul>
```

- **Save** your changes. **Reload** the page in the browser and try clicking on your link.
  If it doesn't work, then go back and fix the errors.

6 Adding images

- The HTML tag to include an image in your document is different from the other tags we've learned so far because it is a single tag; it does not have a begin tag and and end tag. The image tag is:
  `<img src=...URL...>`

- Find an image that you like on the web and then find the URL of that image. Usually right-clicking on the image from the browser window will give you the option to **Copy Image Location**. Do that and then **paste** the image location into your text editor window.
  Then enclose the URL in the image tag. For example:

```
<img src="http://g-ecx.images-amazon.com/images/G/01/gno/images/general/navAmazonLogoFooter._V264586593_.gif">
```

- **Save** your changes. **Reload** the page in the browser and try clicking on your link.
  If it doesn't work, then go back and fix the errors.

- The image tag has one required parameter, `src`, which is set to the URL of the image you want to display. The image tag has several optional parameters. A useful parameter is called `width` which allows you to define the width of the image, in pixels. Using this parameter, you can have the browser resize the image to fit the width you specify.

```
<img src=
"http://g-ecx.images-amazon.com/images/G/01/gno/images/general/navAmazonLogoFooter._V264586593_.gif"
width=200>
```

- Find an image to go with each of the movies on your list. Add an image tag to each list item. Set the width of all the images to be the same size.

- Again, **save** your changes. **Reload** the page in the browser and try clicking on your link.
  If it doesn't work, then go back and fix the errors.

7 Adding a table

- Tables provide ways of lining up information on an HTML page. The content of a table is organized in rows and columns. Rows extend horizontally. Columns extend vertically. See the illustration, below.

	column 1	column 2	column 3
row 1	A	B	C
row 2	D	E	F
row 3	G	H	J

- Tables are created using a series of tags.
  Table start and end tags `<table>...</table>` surround the whole table.
  Table rows start and end with: `<tr>...</tr>`
  Table columns start and end with: `<td>...</td>`
  The column tags are placed in between row tags.

  Below is the code to create a table with three rows and three columns:

```
<table border=1>
<tr> <td> A </td> <td> B </td> <td> C </td> </tr>
<tr> <td> D </td> <td> E </td> <td> F </td> </tr>
<tr> <td> G </td> <td> H </td> <td> J </td> </tr>
</table>
```

- Note that the table tag shown above specifies one parameter, `border`. This is set to a numeric value like 0 for no border, 1 for a thin border, 2 for a thicker border, etc.

- Try entering the sample table above in your HTML file. Save and reload to make sure it works.

- Then modify the sample table to have two columns and five rows. Repeat the information from your list of movies in the table.
  The first column of each row should contain the title of the movie and whatever link you used above.
  The second column of each row should contain the image.

On-line references

- Introduction to HTML:
    - `http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/Guide/Overview.html`
    - `http://htmldog.com/guides/htmlbeginner/`
- Advanced HTML:
    - `http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/Guide/Advanced.html`
    - `http://htmldog.com/guides/htmlintermediate/`
    - `http://htmldog.com/guides/htmladvanced/`
- HTML reference:
    - `http://htmldog.com/reference/htmltags/`
- HTML Full Specification:
    - `http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/` (HTML version 4.01)

HTML validator:

- `http://validator.w3.org/`

Mobile devices:

- `http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/REC-mobile-bp-20080729/`
  (Mobile Web Best Practices 1.0)

- `http://developer.apple.com/iphone/`
  (iphone sdk – free download plus tutorials, videos and documentation)

- `http://code.google.com/android/`
  (android sdk – free download, documentation, etc)