# Commentary: Week 9

CSE120: Computer Science: Principles

This week is fractured by too many constraints. Monday’s lecture is XML to prepare for Assignment 16. Wednesday’s is DNS, which is a prescribed topic – and very neat! And Friday’s topic is Artificial Intelligence, a fun lecture that should probably be earlier in the course, but when is there time?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lecture 22 | HW Work | Lecture 23 | HW Work | Lecture 24 |
|  | | Assignment 16 | |  |

**Lecture 22:** In this lecture the use of XML and XSL to display a Web page is illustrated. The seems somewhat involved when first encountered, so patience is required. The main difficulty is that “XML,” “XSL,” and “HTML” are really easy to confuse. So, my main recommendation (which I only figured out this time AFTER class) is *not to use these terms so religiously*. Rather, use terms like “data structure” or “data specification” for XML, and “display format” or “display style” for XSL. That leaves only HTML as the only “-L” mentioned.

**Assignment: N/A**

**Lab:** A final chance for pairs to wrap up their assignment.

**Lecture 23:** The domain name system is the magic that, for example, allows our computers to find the Web servers around the world that have the pages that interest us. It’s magic solves all other Internet addressing situations, too. It is composed of millions of computers! The reason it is part of CS Principles is because it is an example of a large, completely decentralized system that automatically adapts to the addition or removal of computers from the Internet. It takes a couple of minutes to grok, but basically, it is very straightforward: To find a computer you’ve never referenced, use the domain name to find the right “authoritative computers” to ask.

**Assignment 16:** The task is to create software in support of a personal diary. The diarist will write XML and, using the XSL created in this assignment, a browser can display the diary. It’s slick.

**Lab:** Working on the iDiary assignment with assistance.

**Lecture 24:** This is the AI lecture. We do the Turing test, and consider as a class what questions could stump a computer or reveal its “computerness”. In terms of advanced computer abilities, we discuss Deep Blue and Watson. In the case of Watson, we focus on the difficulties of just trying to get a machine to know what kind of answer is needed. Then we move on to creativity, and point out that it isn’t as hopeless as one might at first think. All in all, a fun topic.

**Assignment: N/A**

**Additional:** In this week’s materials are the rubric I use for grading pair programs, and a short survey that each student must take in which they say how working with their partner was. Knowing the students, it is pretty easy to pick out which ones drafted behind their partners, doing very little. They get dinged in the rubric. If both worked, however, there is no effort to ascribe a proportion to either student.