Hello class. For this homework we are going to be exploring the individual assessment and ratings phases of heuristic evaluation and also a little bit of the notion of a redesign prototype.

This homework has two different sub-options, both of them have both parts so regardless of option you'll be doing a heuristic evaluation and presenting a partial redesign prototype.
The two options are presented on the homework website, basically option 1 is the department's undergraduate website and option 2 is finding course material on ELMS.

They are both web-based but they have different scopes of users and very different layouts and tasks, and probably very different design issues.

I'd encourage you to look at both a little bit and think about both a little bit and then select which one you'd prefer to dig into with your evaluation and redesign elements.

Either is fine, but pick one and do both assignment elements on that one.
In the video set leading up to this, we looked at the nine heuristics into which we will be classifying problems in evaluations in this course. On this slide I summarize them once more.

Remember that during your evaluation phase you go through the website more than once, and rather than using this list as some sort of checklist, you are using this list to categorize the problems that you find. It's not always going to be a perfect fit, and experiencing that part of the practice if something you'll be getting practice with in this assignment.

Our Heuristics

After finding something that you see as an issue, determine into which of these general heuristic categories it fits.

1: Simple and natural dialogue
2: Speak the users’ language
3: Minimize user’s memory load
4: Be consistent
5: Provide feedback
6: Provide clearly marked exits
7: Provide shortcuts
8: Deal with errors in a positive and helpful manner
9: Provide help
Remember, an important part of the heuristic evaluation is assigning a severity rating to each issue.

In a full evaluation, the ratings of the individual evaluators would be aggregated, but we won't do that in this homework assignment. You'll just present your own judgements here.

Don't just give a number, but rather a number and a brief reason behind it.

**Severity Ratings**

You can tweak the list from class to come up with a scale of 1 to 4 or 1 to 5 if you’d like.

Define your scale for us! (even if you basically use Nielsen’s)

A number with a sentence explaining why is going to be most helpful.
Redesign rather than aggregate/debrief

• For this homework assignment, after you find the problems, group them into categories, and rate each individual problem, you will propose a redesign.

• In a heuristic evaluation the next step would have been to aggregate your lists and then meet with the client to debrief.

Again, in a full heuristic evaluation you would go on to aggregate the individual results, and if we were meeting in person I would have had a class activity on this, but for this assignment it is all about your individual problem identification and descriptions and ratings.
Finally, even though the product teams will not see your evaluation entries, you should be practicing how to create such entries in a respectful tone.

Thank you.