Objectives for this lecture

Create a single PHP page that displays a form and also processes that form
Introduce the colon operator
Design and code a "sticky form"
Understand how to do page redirects
Form Processing

Form display and form processing can be consolidated into one script.

- Requiring a user to retype all form data in event of error/omission reduces usability.
- Allows "sticky form": display error message to user and also retain values the user has already entered.

Design (at minimum):

- Form validity checking embedded on page with form.
- Form submits to itself for processing. Typically done using PHP superglobal $_SERVER['PHP_SELF'].

Sticky form pseudocode

**Processing:**

Has the form been submitted? If so:
- Validity check each field.
  - All fields complete and correct? If so:
    - Process form data as appropriate.
  - If not:
    - Record errors.

**Output:**

- If form submitted: Display desired output or error message.
- If form has not been submitted, or form error:
  - Display error message (if present)
  - Display form, using XHTML form field attributes to set default values
Testing for form submission

Various techniques possible, but perhaps logically most correct involves naming the submit button and checking to see if it is set.

http://einstein.etsu.edu/~pittares/CSCI2910/examples/6-1.php

Can decide to display form or not based on desired outcome.

http://einstein.etsu.edu/~pittares/CSCI2910/examples/6-2.php
http://einstein.etsu.edu/~pittares/CSCI2910/examples/6-3.php

The colon operator

Allows beginning a block with a colon. Block ends when end__ statement encountered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>for ():</th>
<th>endfor;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>foreach ():</td>
<td>endforeach;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>while ():</td>
<td>endwhile;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>switch ():</td>
<td>endswitch;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if ():</td>
<td>endif;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>else:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elseif ():</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The colon operator

```php
<?php
    if (test):
        code;
        code;
    elseif (test):
        code;
        code;
    else:
        code;
        code;
endif;
?>
```

Validity check fields

If all fields correct, display results.
If all fields not correct, display error message.

http://einstein.etsu.edu/~pittares/CSCI2910/examples/6-4.php
Should the form be displayed if valid input?

Design decision. Depends on context.
If want form always displayed, code is not conditional.
If not always displayed, form display must be controlled by PHP conditional code.

http://einstein.etsu.edu/~pittares/CSCI2910/examples/6-5.php

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Misc. Helpful Hints

Make sure you name your submit button and test that name using isset().

Design point: Forms should clearly identify to the user which elements are required and which are optional.
Redirection to another page

If you wish to re-direct the user to another page in your PHP script, use the header function:

```php
header("Location: http://www.url.com/page.htm");
```

**header** must be called before **anything** written to the browser (including whitespace, html tags, etc.)

Possible use: have a form page that checks to see whether the form has been posted. If so, check validity of responses. If all is well, process input and redirect user to a thank you page.

This is useful for solving the multiple submit problem.

"Sticky Forms"

A sticky form is one where if the user leaves information out, they are prompted to complete the form, but **the information previously supplied is present**.

Key is to use the **value** attribute of a form field to set the default value to the value coming from the **$_POST** or **$_GET** variable.

[http://einstein.etsu.edu/~pittares/CSCI2910/examples/6-6.php](http://einstein.etsu.edu/~pittares/CSCI2910/examples/6-6.php)
Setting values for other types of form fields

Radio buttons and check boxes required addition of `checked="checked"` to turn them on.

```html
<input type="checkbox" name="interests" value="Skiing" checked="checked" />
```

To pre-select a pull-down menu, use `selected="selected"`.

```html
<select name="year">
  <option value="2002">2002</option>
  <option value="2003" selected="selected">2003</option>
</select>
```

To pre-set text area, place value between textarea tags:

```html
<textarea name="comments" rows="10" cols="50">
  preset value
</textarea>
```

http://einstein.etsu.edu/~pittares/CSCI2910/forms/formdemo5.php