

The Origins of WonderProfessor.com

All the class material is stored on www.wonderprofessor.com. There is a long story about why I use this website. Suffice to say that in the earlier days of online teaching, the technology was much less reliable than it is today. Our various Southwestern Internet servers and Blackboard would at times continually crash and often all your course material was lost forever. Yours Truly went searching for an alternative and I spared no expense. I registered [wonderprofessor.com](http://www.wonderprofessor.com) for the vast sum of \$14 many years ago. I now pay about \$130 for a year's worth of service from a company called www.inmotionhosting.com. They are extremely competent and reliable and I have never once found my website down. There was a time many years ago at a friend's house when I could not get to it for 5 minutes but I don't think it was their fault. I think it was the fault of the Internet service I was using. (By the way, if you are looking for a web-hosting company and you want to choose this company, tell them I referred you to them and I get a kickback of \$50 or something like that. Sweet! I'll treat you to lunch.)

Where did the name come from? I was racking my brain trying to find a name that the students would remember. I tried, "YouCanRememberThis.com" and all other various permutations. They were all taken. When I was young growing up in the 1960's, the culture was immersed in the new "Atomic Age" of science and electronics and rockets. There were television shows for kids like, "Mr. Wizard," and, "Mr. Wonder," where Mr. Wonder would teach Timmy all about exciting new inventions. "Today, Timmy, we are going to learn how refrigerators work." "Oh, boy, Mr. Wonder!" Since then, it always gives me a chuckle when people get introduced to new technologies and I think about how Mr. Wonder would try to explain the technology to Timmy. Ah, does that make any sense? Anyway, I wanted some name that the students could not forget. And so far, [wonderprofessor.com](http://www.wonderprofessor.com) seems to have worked pretty well.

Before you take a look at the class websites, please let me say that I am a big fan of sparse websites with very little animation and cutesy pictures and videos and things flying around and all that hooaha. (Hooaha is an old word for commotion or fuss, for you youngsters.) My absolute favorite website is www.craigslist.org. It is quick and efficient and you can get what you need fast. Therefore, I used www.craigslist.org as the model for www.wonderprofessor.com. Everything is right there on the class website and you don't have to go looking anywhere else. Okay, so nothing is perfect, right? What is the downside? Well, some students take a look at the class website and are alarmed at the amount of information. Relax. Calmate. Tranquilo. Don't "freak out." Don't go screaming into the night air. Don't give up and drop the class. Many of the links are doubled or even quadrupled as in the case of the presentations. There are documents and then there are often audio commentaries and answer keys to go along with the documents.

You Can Do It! Stick with us! We want you to be AWESOME! Don't Give Up! *Never* Give Up!