

Using Joomla! Extensions

We are going to install a commenting extension for this week; this is something that will help you with your project 1 as well, since as part of your project you will need to install this commenting extension (or another commenting extension of your choosing) to fulfill the requirements of the project. I chose a commenting extension called yvComment. To install:

1. Go to <http://extensions.joomla.org/extensions/contacts-&-feedback/comments/2233/details> and download the extension. After hitting the "download" button, you will come to a page that has a large list of files. The ones you want are:

yvCommentModule 1.20.000.zip

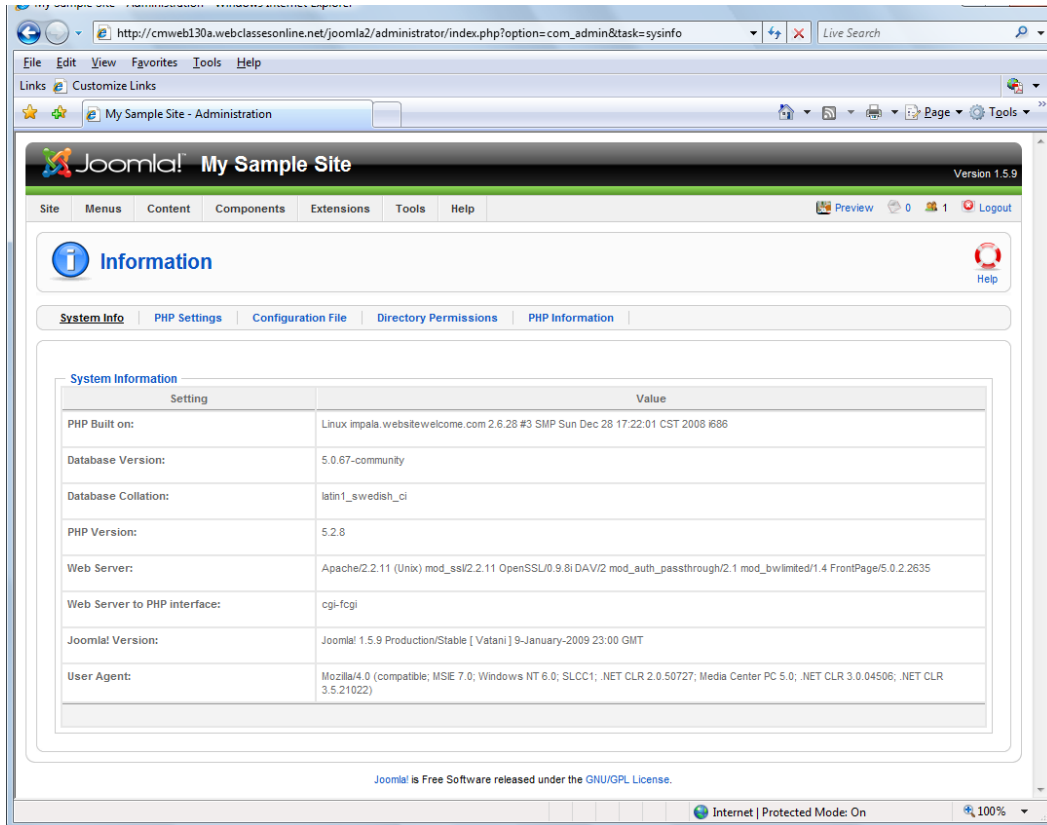
yvCommentPlugin1.20.000.zip

yvCommentComponent1.20.000.zip

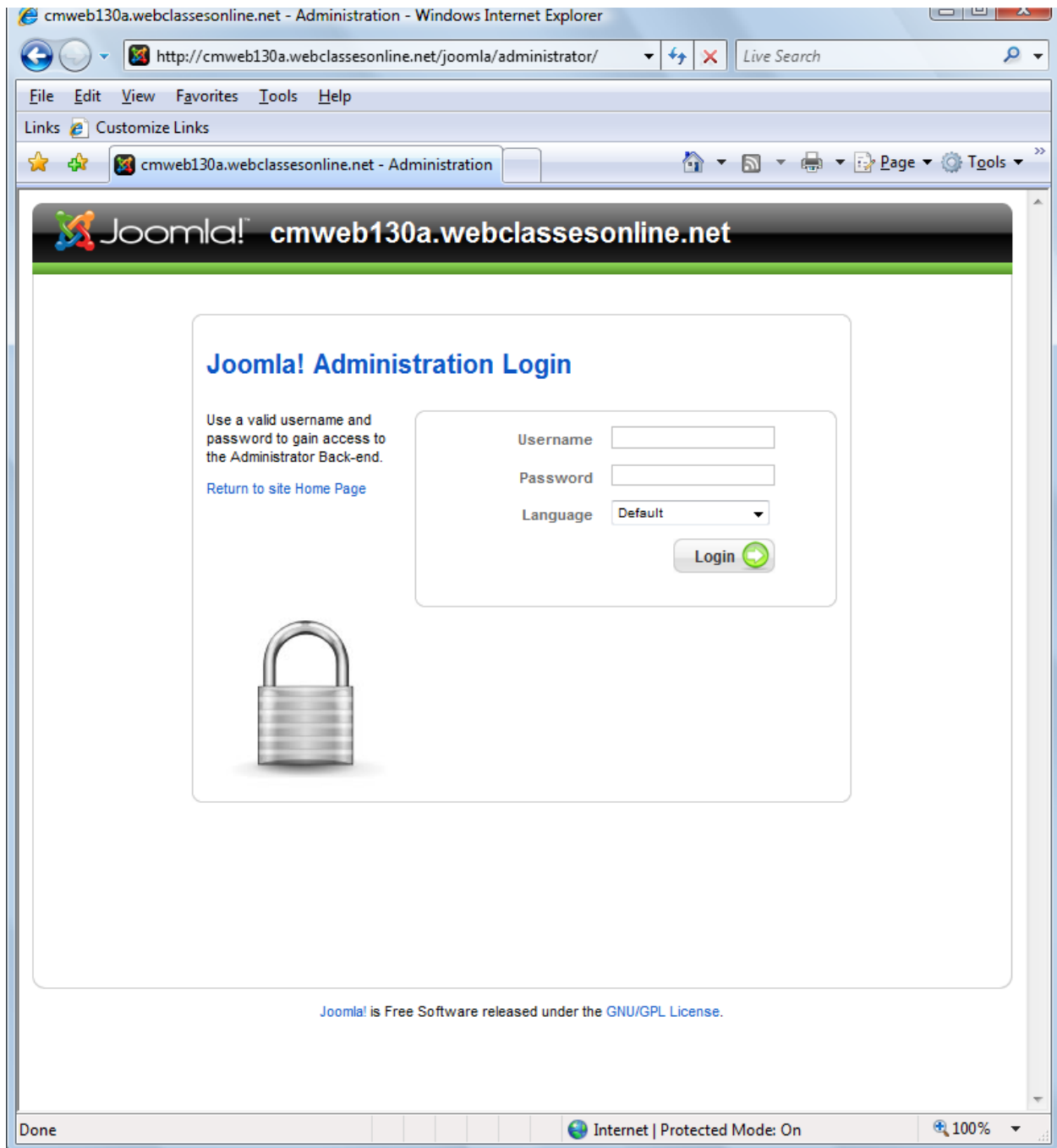
and also download the documentation; though I will walk you through the installation and a common configuration, there are other options that the extension allows. If you decide you want to play with it, you'll want to read the documentation:

yvComment_CopyOfHomepage_1.20.000.mht

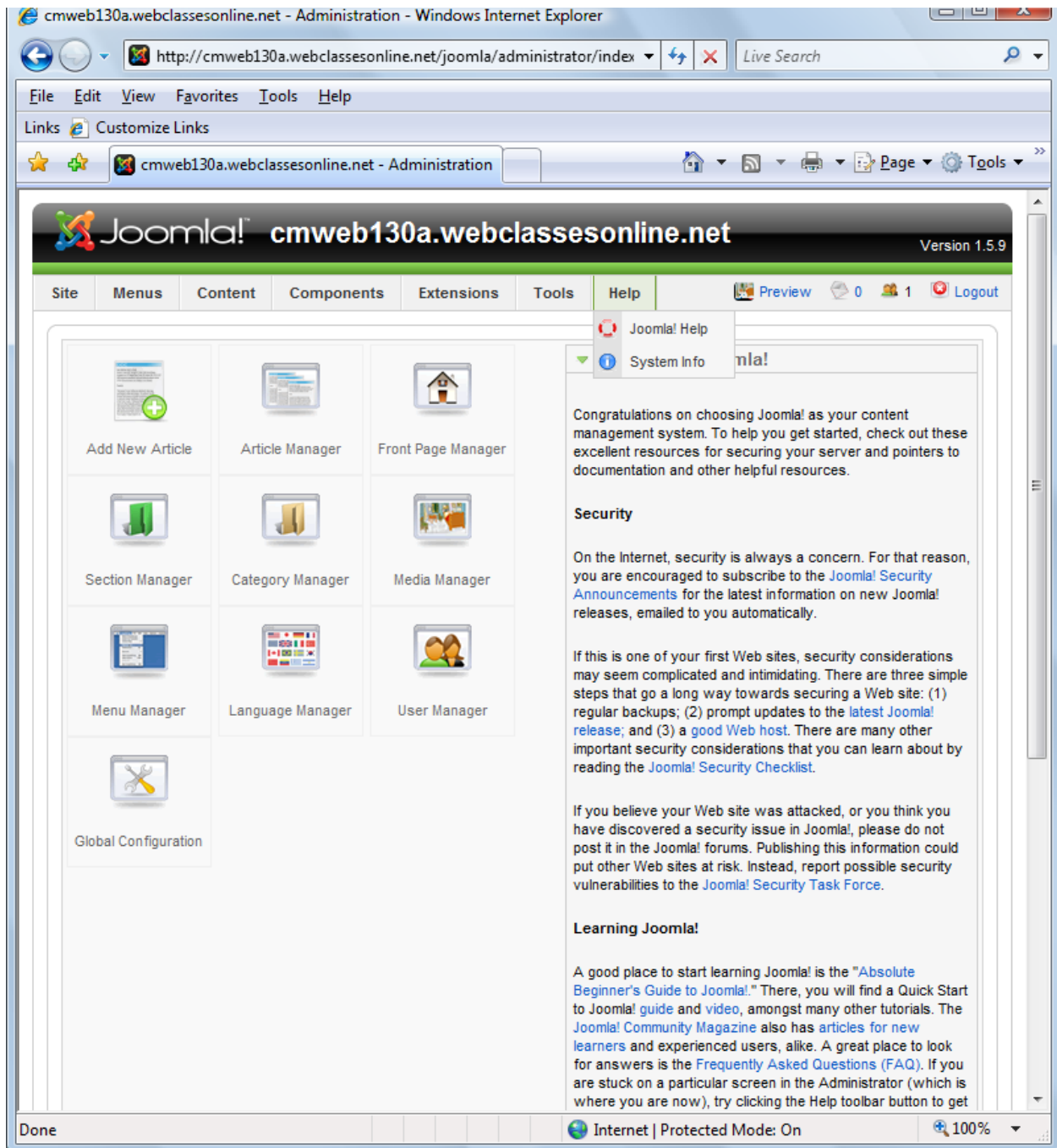
- Before installing any extension, you should always read the documentation and make sure that your server environment has the proper configuration to support the extension. You can find the PHP version, MySQL, and Joomla! version by signing into the Joomla! administration panel, clicking on the Help menu, and then choosing System Info (see screenshot below). You do not need to check this for this lab or your project since your configuration is the same as mine, but if you were installing an extension on another site, you would want to check its configuration.



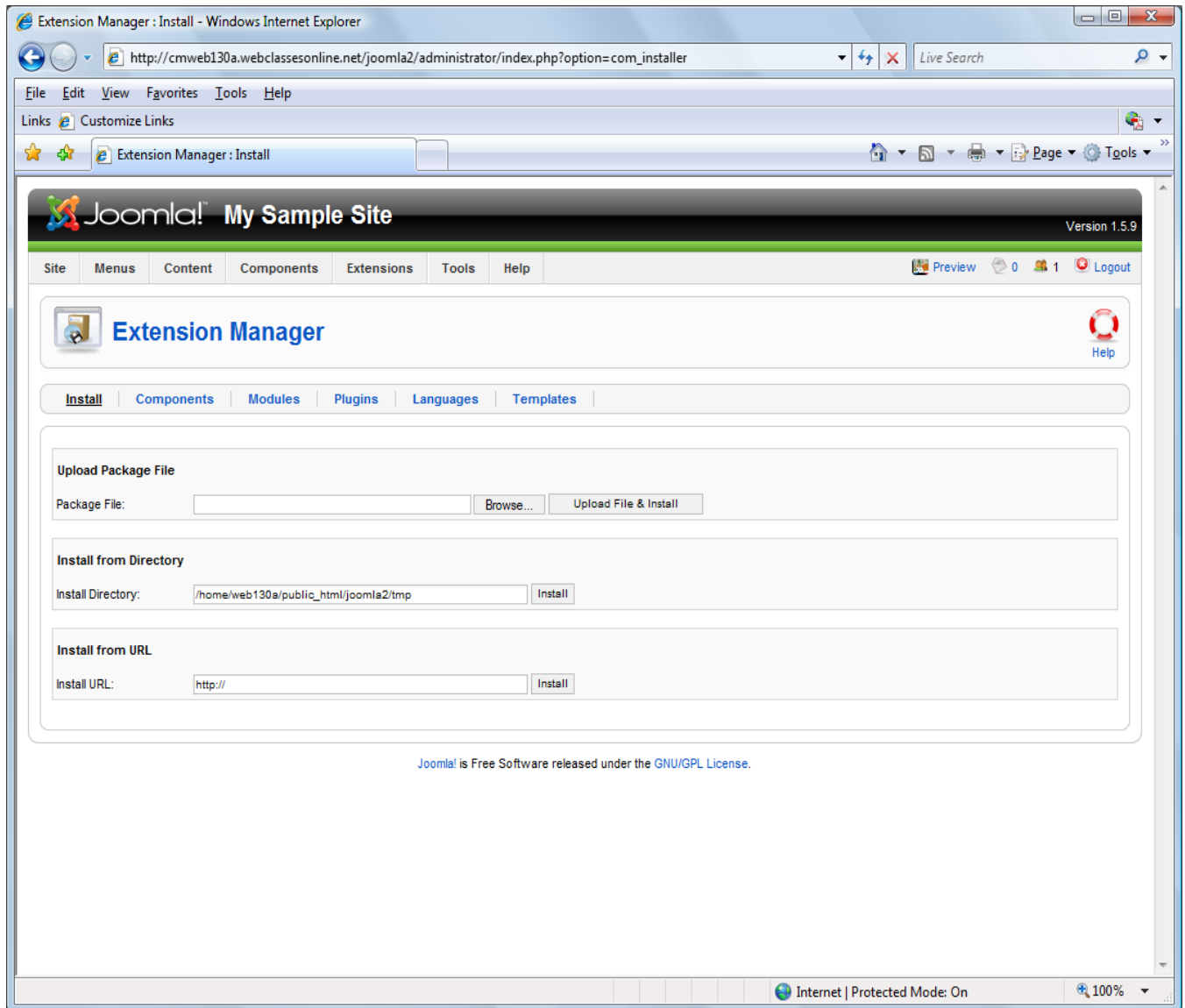
3. Open a browser and enter <http://yourfirstinitialyourlastname.mystudentsite.net/joomla/administrator> . This will bring you to a screen that looks like this:



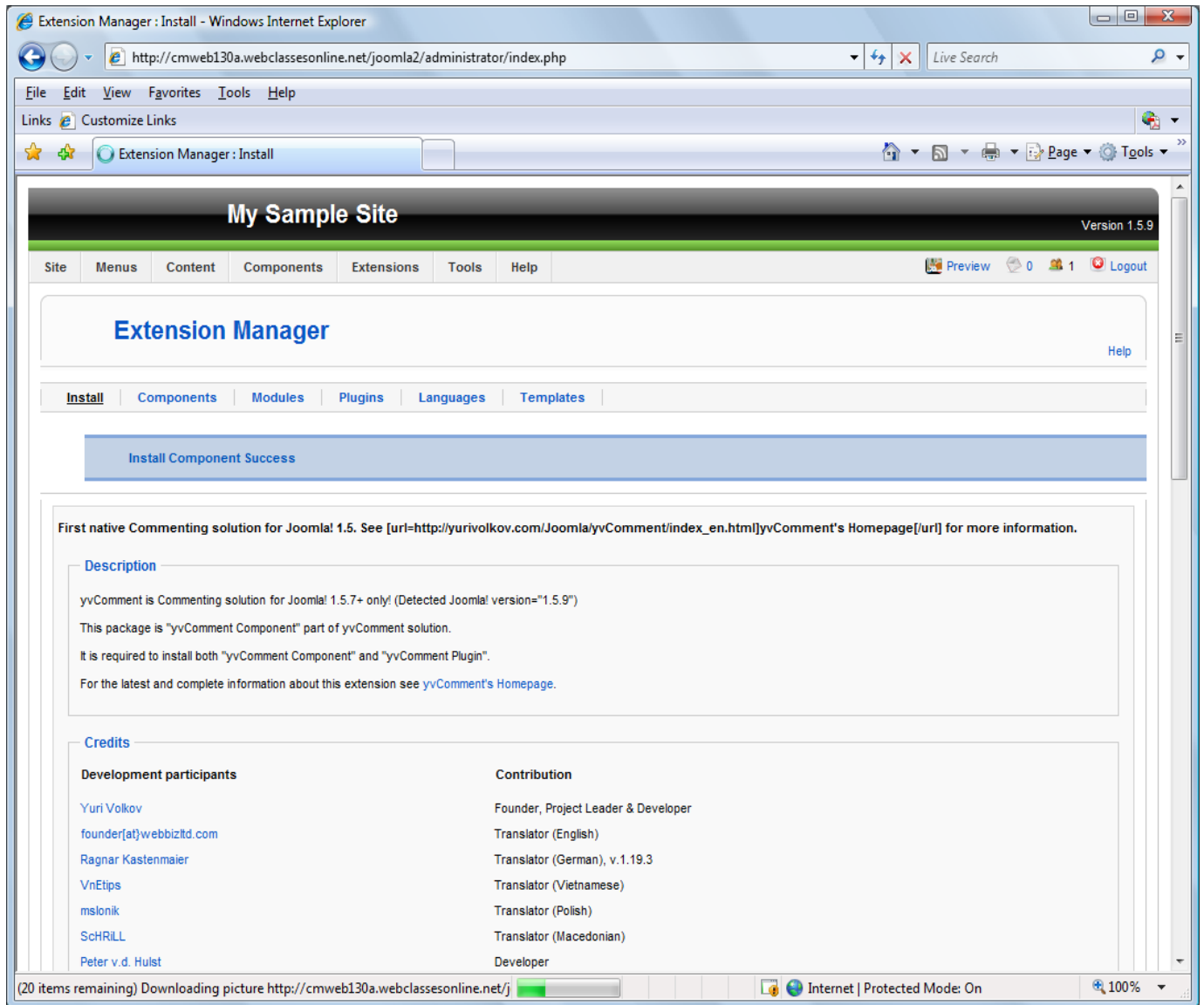
4. Log in using the same username and password you requested for your ftp account. This will bring you to the following screen:



5. Click on the extensions menu, then click on Install/Uninstall. This will bring you to a screen that looks like this:

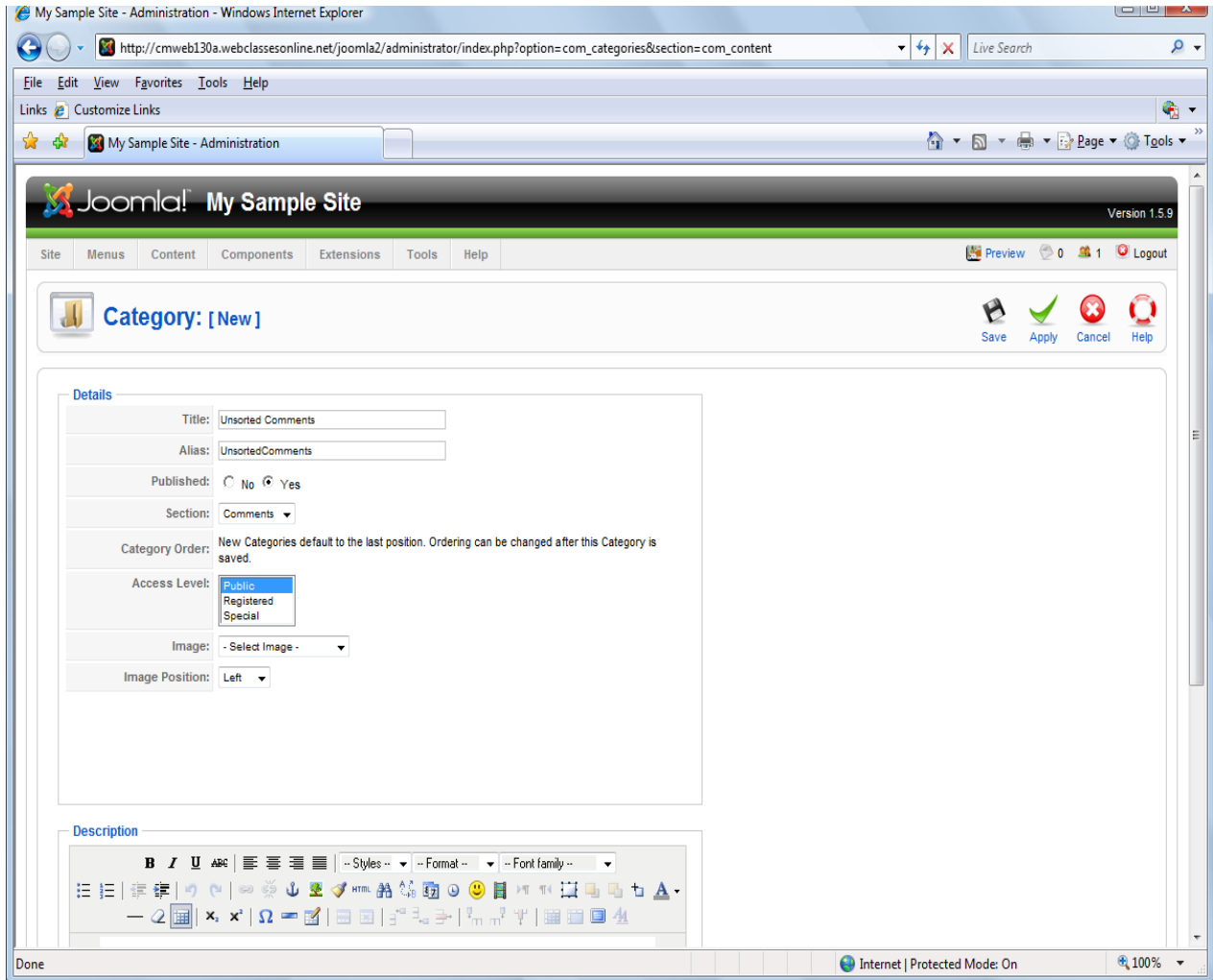


6. Browse and find the yvCommentComponent zip file, then click the Upload File & Install button. You should end up with a screen that looks like the one pictured below (**note; for some reason (perhaps a network glitch), I got a server error screen the first time I tried this; I just clicked "refresh" and then it worked. Installing the subsequent files went smoothly.)

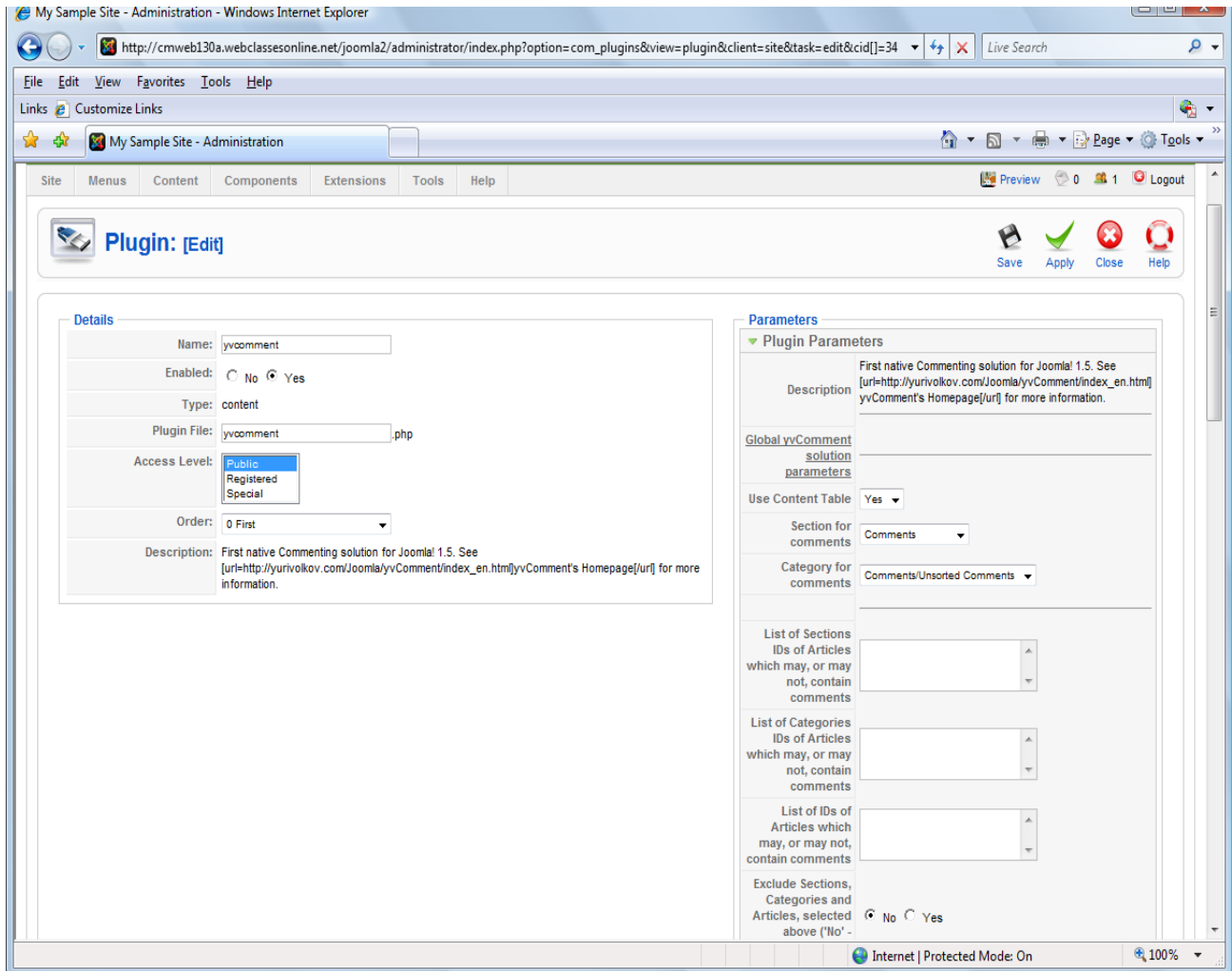


7. Repeat step 6 for the yvCommentPlugin and the yvComment Module zip files.

9. Click on the Content menu, then "category manager" then click the "new" button. Create a Category called "Unsorted Comments" that belongs to the "Comments" section. (see screenshot)



10. Now we need to configure the yvcomment Plugin. Go to the Extensions menu, then Plugin Manager, then click on yvcomment. Configure it as pictured below; don't forget to set enabled to "yes" and to save it when you're done. (**NOTE: If you have any trouble with the display of the site once you are all done enabling yvcomment, try coming back here and changing the "Use CSS File" option to "no".



My Sample Site - Administration - Windows Internet Explorer

http://cmweb130a.webclassonline.net/joomla2/administrator/index.php?option=com_plugins&view=plugin&client=site&task=edit&cid[]=34

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Links Customize Links

My Sample Site - Administration

Use CSS file: style003 (Gradient)

Subject of comments: Show

Comment Linkable: No

Author mentioned by: Name

Author name Linkable: No Yes

Execute content plugins: No Yes

Enable Joomla!'s version check warnings: No Yes

Allow comments on comment: No

Editor: Generic editor

Use Smiley form buttons: No Yes

Use BBCode form buttons: No Yes

Allow HTML in text of comments: No

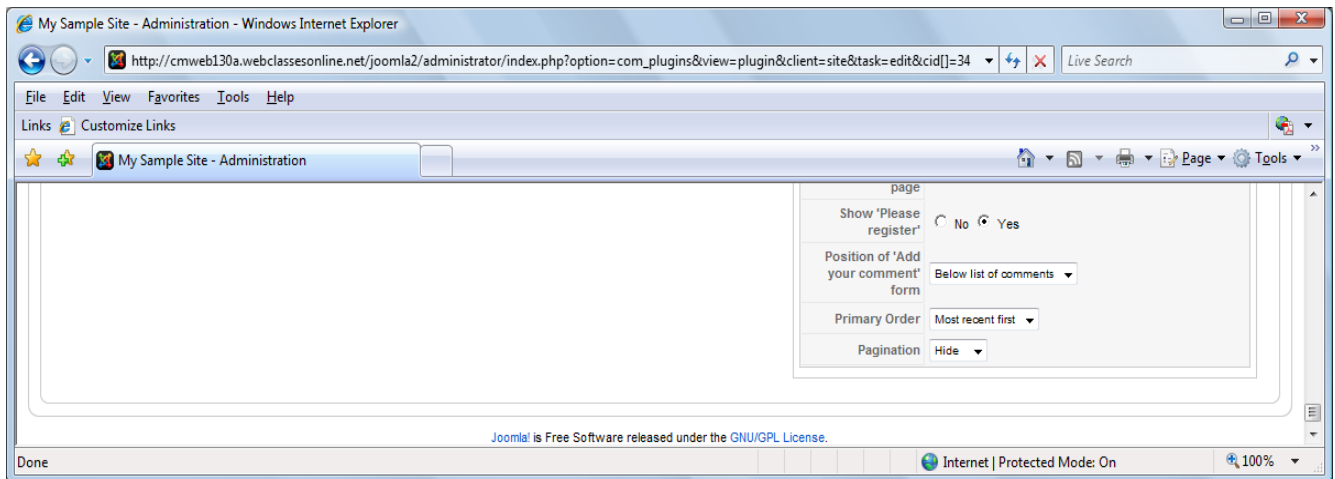
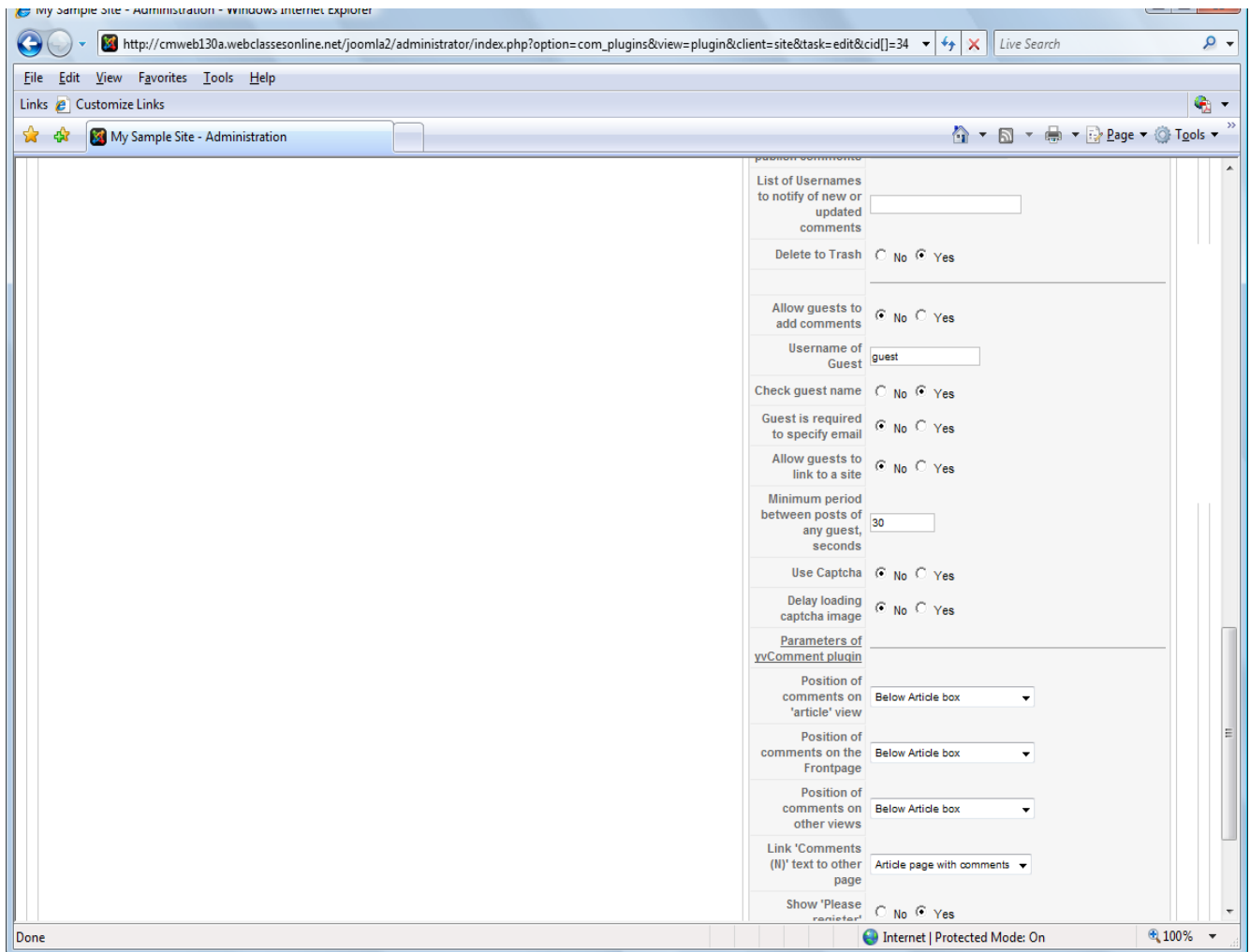
Max characters in the text of comment: 500

Minimum period between posts of one user, seconds: 60

Auto close comments after specified number of days:

Immediately publish comments: Yes for registered users

Done Internet | Protected Mode: On 100%



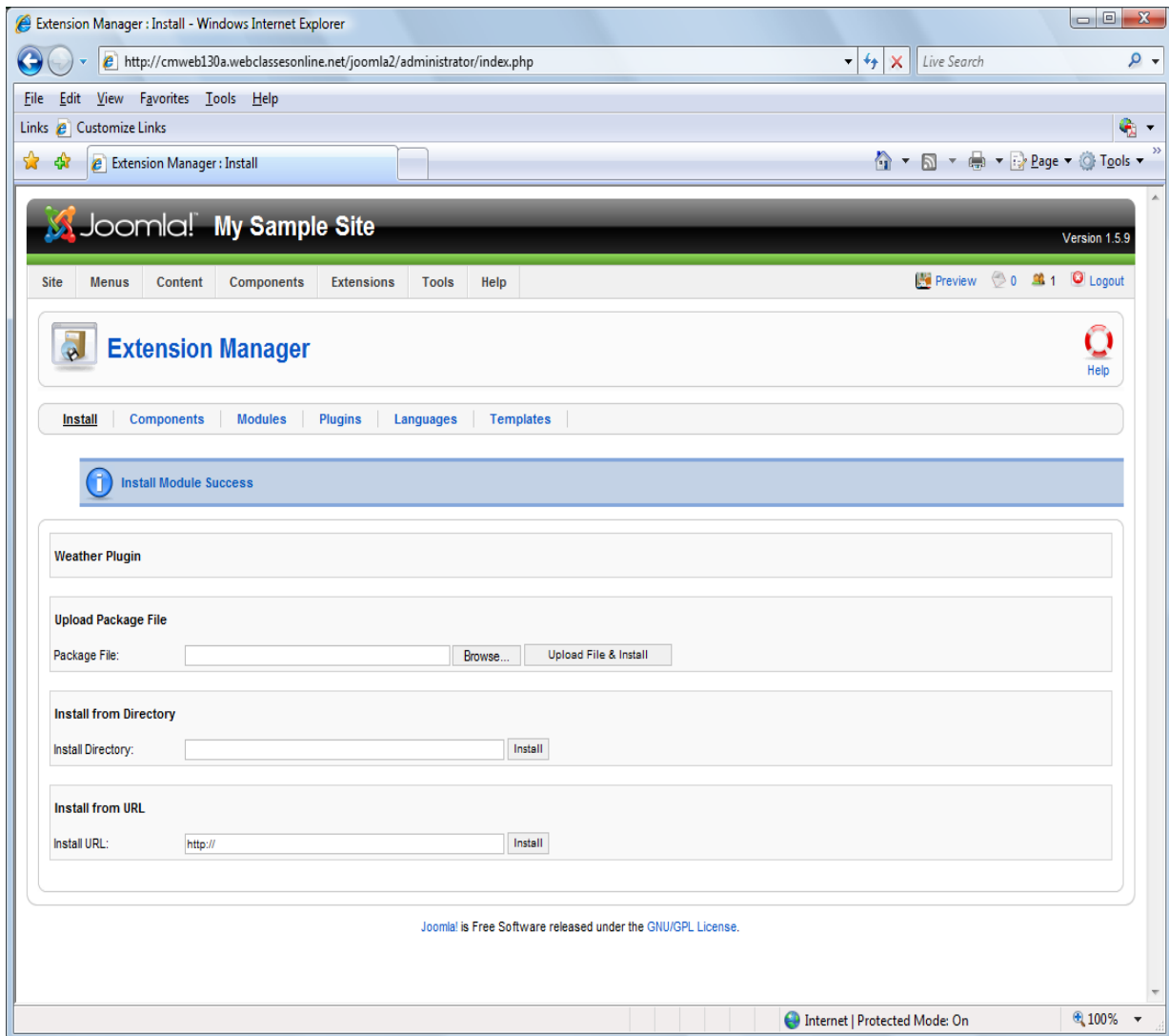
11. Now we need to configure the yvcomment Module. Click on the Extensions menu, then Module Manager. In the "Enabled" column, if there is a red circle next to yvcomment, click on it to enable. There are no other configuration changes we need to make here, although we could (see documentation for the yvcomment module for full explanation of options).

(Note: though we are not using the Latest News module, if we were, by default, comments will show up in the Latest News module. There are instructions in the documentation on how to change this if you want to.)

- At this point you should be able to add comments to your articles, but ONLY after you log in since we did not set it up for guest users to be able to add comments. If you want to enable guests to add comments without registering, see the instructions in the documentation file.

We also said that for the project, we wanted to put the weather on the main page. Here's how to do that:

- Open your browser and go to JWeather extension page (<http://extensions.joomla.org/extensions/external-contents/weather/4055/details>)
- Click the download button, and download the JWeather extension.
- Log into the administration page of your Joomla! site, and go to the extensions menu, then click on install/uninstall. Under "Upload Package File", click on browse and select your mod_jweather file. Click the "Upload File & Install" button. You should get a screen like the one below when it is installed:



- Click on the Extensions menu, then Module Manager, then click on JWeather. Change Enabled to "Yes" and configure any options you want. Here is a screenshot of how I configured my options:

The screenshot shows the Joomla! administrator interface for configuring the JWeather module. The browser window title is "My Sample Site - Administration - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: [http://cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net/joomla2/administrator/index.php?option=com_modules&client=0&task=edit&cid\[\]=19](http://cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net/joomla2/administrator/index.php?option=com_modules&client=0&task=edit&cid[]=19).

The interface is divided into two main sections: "Details" and "Parameters".

Details:

- Module Type: mod_jweather
- Title: JWeather
- Show Title: No Yes
- Enabled: No Yes
- Position: left
- Order: 4::JWeather
- Access Level: Public (Selected), Registered, Special
- ID: 19
- Description: Weather Plugin

Menu Assignment:

- Menus: All None Select Menu Item(s) from the List
- Menu Selection:
 - catproducts
 - Sample Article
 - mainmenu
 - Home
 - Sample Article 2
 - Sample Article 1
 - Login
 - Submit Content

Parameters:

- Measurement System: Metric US Standard
- Icons Path: icons
- City Code: USIL0935
- Number of forecast days: 3
- Title: Weather for
- Show locality name: Yes No
- Show day names: Short Format
- Show icons for weather: Yes No
- Show temperature: Yes No
- Temperature separator:
- Show forecast information: Yes No
- Show sunrise time: Yes No
- Show sunset time: Yes No
- Show sunrise/sunset time: Yes No
- Show Visibility: Yes No
- Show wind: Yes No
- Show humidity: Yes No
- Show Dewpoint: Yes No
- Show High temperature: Yes No
- Show Low temperature: Yes No

This screenshot shows the bottom portion of the Joomla! administrator interface for the JWeather module configuration. The browser window title is "My Sample Site - Administration - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: [http://cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net/joomla2/administrator/index.php?option=com_modules&client=0&task=edit&cid\[\]=19](http://cmweb130a.webclassesonline.net/joomla2/administrator/index.php?option=com_modules&client=0&task=edit&cid[]=19).

The visible parameters are:

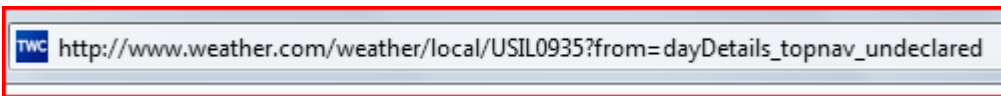
- Show Low temperature: Yes No
- Show High/Low temperature: Yes No
- Module ID suffix:

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer that reads: "Joomla! is Free Software released under the GNU/GPL license".

Note: to find the City code, go to <http://www.weather.com> . Enter your city and state under "Local Weather".

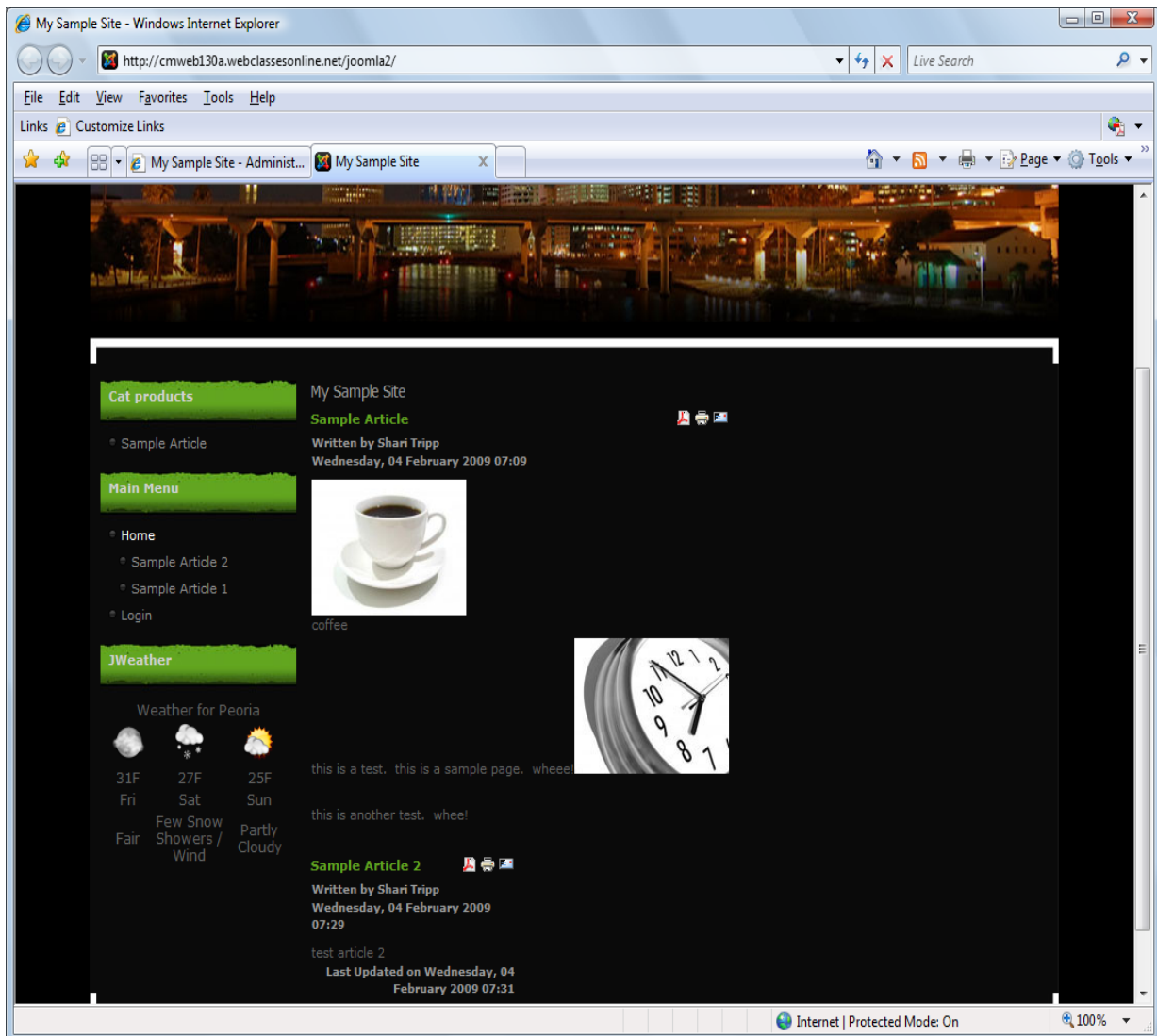
The screenshot shows the weather.com website interface. The logo "The Weather Channel" and "weather.com" are visible on the left. The main navigation includes "Local Weather", "Site", and "Web", with "Local Weather" selected. The page is powered by Google. A search bar contains the text "peoria, il" and a "Search" button is to its right. Below the search bar, there are links for "Maps | Video | Photos | World | Mobile | Alerts".

Select today's weather, then look up in the address bar:



The code between `/local/` and `?from` is your city code.

5. Be sure to save your changes, and then when you view your site, you should have weather on your front page. The location will be dependent upon your template. It should look something like this:



If you don't see the same things, check to make sure you've configured it the same way I did mine.

This concludes the handout on extensions; you will want to repeat the above steps with your project 1 when you get a chance. Then you might want to take a look just for fun at all the other extensions that are available at <http://extensions.joomla.org/>. ☺