

## *ECT424/ IS324 Assignment Four: WordPress Site*

**Assignment:** Due class seven, Total points: 55

1. Template and basic Configuration: Configure a basic site with a blog (30pts)
  - a. Select a theme (other than the default theme that came from your webhost) from among the many free WP themes. Find one that gives you the options to configure many options (number of columns, menus, etc.).
    - i. Customize the theme by giving it **your own blog name and tagline**. You may make any other format or graphic adjustments to the theme as you like. You may decide how best to utilize your columns; your theme may give you control over placement and width.
    - ii. Build a **menuing system** for your site ; note that some themes severely limit menuing options. You can include an external link to the class blog among the options on your menu (it should be on the menu and not a link in the blog roll).
    - iii. Create a mechanism for your users to **signup (register) and log in** to your site (you should install a plugin for this functionality rather than the default) and configure the site to allow for registration.
    - iv. Add the **login widget** to your main sidebar
    - v. Set the time for your **time zone**, and change the start of the week to Sunday. Use only the Chicago time zone.
  - b. Post a couple of blogs and discuss. Using your taxonomy, assign at least one Category (and maybe a tag or two) to your posts. You must have NO uncategorized posts.
2. **Required Plugins.** Add extensions from all of these required categories (25pts).
  - a. **Plugin for managing Spam comments.** Akismet and WP-spam-free are the two leading choices. You may select a different one if you like. Note that Akismet requires some installation steps but no need to buy it.
  - b. **Plugin for subscribing to comment discussions by email.** There are several plugins that permit readers to subscribe to the comments of a particular post. Check out Subscribe-to-Comments, but you should find others as well. BE sure to make necessary changes so the Admin can subscribe. Even if your theme provides this feature, please install a plugin.
  - c. **Plugin for sharing posts to social networks or social media.** Add-to-Any, Socialize-this and Sociable. There are several others. Customize the plugin in an appropriate way.
  - d. **Plugin for RSS out syndication.** RSS runs in two directions. One, you can syndicate your blog so that others can subscribe to it. Check out Feedburner and Feedsmith as two possible plugins. You may be required to register at their sites. Note you cannot just assume the native RSS plugin in your theme will work
3. **Post a document to D2L with your URL in it.**