509 | Designing for Wordpress
Wednesdays 6:00PM – 9:00PM | Oct 1 to Dec 10, 2014 location: Sharp Room 310

Instructor Andrew Kaye
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Course Description
In this course, students learn the ins and outs of the WordPress platform. While working with WordPress, students create themes from scratch and learn to modify pre-existing themes. This course focuses on covering all aspects of building and maintaining WordPress driven sites. Students will leave feeling comfortable with a complete Wordpress workflow, from design customizations to basic PHP adjustments.

Prerequisites
Content Management Systems.

Course Objectives/Outcomes
- advanced Wordpress management and design
- intelligent website development
- custom theme design/creation

Textbooks
none

Supplies
Laptop/usb drive

Evaluation
Participation: Process work, class critiques, class preparedness, attendance and work done in class

Faculty reserve the right to make changes and/or adjustments to the syllabus.

The mission of the Adult Continuing Education program is to provide excellence in adult multi-– disciplinary art and design education through studio, digital, academic, and museum exposure with the goal of building hands-– on and digital art making skills, developing creative and critical thinking skills, fostering expressive and conceptual capabilities, and providing structured, sequential learning pathways for personal and professional application in all areas and future fields of study.

Course Schedule
The class schedule is subject to change at the discretion of faculty based on necessary adjustments to specific activities relevant to this course. Updates to the schedule will be shared with the class as appropriate.

WEEK 1

        Introductions
        Review Syllabus / Overview of Designing for Wordpress
        Web Resources
        WP File Structure
        Getting Started with Wordpress
        HOMEWORK: Review Course Materials / Experiment with Wordpress

WEEK 2

        HTML to Wordpress
        Overflow from Week 1
        Refresh HTML/CSS skills
        Anatomy of a Wordpress Theme
        Hacking a Theme
        HOMEWORK: Continue hacking theme

WEEK 3

        First Steps to Building Your Theme
        Best practices: designing for wordpress
        HTML Site —> WP Theme
        HOMEWORK: Begin first custom theme

WEEK 4

        WP Conversion
        Continue building custom theme
        HOMEWORK: Reading, PDF download provided by instructor

WEEK 5

        WP Conversion Continued
        HTML site —> WP Theme
        HOMEWORK: Work on conversion

WEEK 6

        Child Themes
        Implementing child themes
        Continue working on site conversion

WEEK 7
Working with Wordpress
Implementing your custom theme/ debugging

WEEK 8
Other Options
When to use a template theme
Best template themes
   _s, bootstrap, etc..
continue working on themes

WEEK 9
Bringing it All Together
Finishing sites
Troubleshooting

WEEK 10
What Next?
Group critique of finished sites

Policies
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago is committed to full compliance with all laws regarding equal opportunities for students with disabilities. Continuing Studies students with disabilities should call 312.629.6170 or email cs@saic.edu for further information.

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