

WEB DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM

WD108 WordPress 1

WD108 Description

This module will go over the foundation knowledge that you need in order to utilize content management systems (CMS), specifically WordPress. Students will review HTML, CSS and JavaScript while walking through the process that leads up to creating a site that is content managed.

In today's market, people want websites that they can manage on their own. They don't want to have to keep calling some expensive developer they want a one time transaction. CMS is the answer! The most popular of the CMS' these days is WordPress, making it an invaluable skill to have as an emerging web designer/developer/specialist.

WD108 Objectives

- (X)HTML/CSS Review
- Advanced topics on HTML/CSS—With our sites on Content Management
- Introduction/review of LAMP servers, MAMP and web hosting.
- Introduction to PHP and dynamically driven websites—getting our feet wet
- Introduction to MySQL and databases—what it looks like and how it is used.
- Bridging the gap between static sites and database driven sites
- Introduction to WordPress – History and Basics
- WordPress Installation
- Working With WordPress – Understanding the WP Dashboard
- Posts vs. Pages – WordPress Content

WD108: Equipment and Supplies Needed

- USB/firewire flash drive
- an external drive

WD108: Relevant Skills and Concepts to Review Prior to First Class

- HTML/CSS simple site construction.
- Fireworks/Photoshop

WD108: Exercises and Deliverables

Exercise:

- Pop Quiz: Build a two column website with a header and a footer.
- Coding a Site in HTML and CSS: Walk through coding out provided design starting with going over how the design should be sliced in FW/PS (preferably FW).
- Converting HTML/CSS code into PHP: Show how you would take the above code and turn it into one page that dynamically pulls the appropriate content based off of the query string.
- Convert PHP into a fully database driven site: Show the students how you would take the above code and add a database component thus making the site dynamic. **NOTE: This step should only be coded if the class seems VERY competent and is picking up the concepts easily or is very advanced!**



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Otherwise skip the coding and just explain the concept of how a database would be the next logical step.

- Create a WordPress blog...

Deliverables:

- Final Project (***Handout:** WD108-WordPress Final Deliverable.pdf*)
- Website design file(s): The files should be turned in as ORGANIZED PSD(s) and/or FW PNG(s).
- HTML/CSS/JavaScript only version of the delivered designs
- PHP version of site (MySQL optional).

WD108: Format for Deliverables

Keep copies of all your electronic files on your class server in a folder identified by your name. All deliverables should be organized in folders identified separately by each module name. For example: ftfall10 (class server) WD10XNameofModule > Final Project > FirstNameLastName subfolder.

For all electronic work, **Keep an additional duplicate of your assignments on a secondary removable drive as well the copy on the server designated for your class.** Losing information from any disk prior to final evaluation will not be an excuse for incomplete assignments. All media is fallible and you are still responsible for the assignments if you lose information on one of your Macintosh media, this pertains to all your classes.

Final presentation of all your assignments is extremely critical to your final grade.



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WD108: Suggested Readings

Books:

- *PHP 6 and MySQL 5 for Dynamic Web Sites: Visual QuickPro Guide*
Larry E. Ullman
- *Digging Into WordPress*
Jeff Starr and Chris Coyier
- *Professional WordPress Plugin Development*
Brad Williams, Ozh Richard and Justin Tadlock

Websites:

- WordPress Codex
<http://codex.wordpress.org/>
- WordPress Template Tags
<http://www.dbswebsite.com/design/wordpress-reference/V3/>
- WordPress Code Snippets
<http://wphacks.com/huge-compilation-of-wordpress-code/>

WD108: Software Required

- Adobe Dreamweaver (or other text editor)
- Firefox/Safari OSX
- Firefox/IE6/IE7/IE8/ Windows
- Adobe Photoshop and/or Adobe Fireworks
- MAMP



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WD108 SESSION BY SESSION BREAKOUT

WD108: Session 1: Review – HTML/CSS

- Introduction
- Project/Final Deliverable Discussion
- Pop Quiz!
(Handout: *WD108-WordPress 1 Pop Quiz.pdf*)
- Review quiz
- Add CSS only Dropdown to the final results of the quiz.
- Introduce design file and Meet WordPress Demo
(Handout: *pngs/wordpress class.png* and *pngs/wordpress class-sliced.png*)

WD108: Session 2: Take it to the Next Level– Lets put that code to action

- Code out the demo site as a class.
 - Dropdown Navigation reinforced
 - CSS3 @font-face
 - CSS3 :before and :after pseudo-classes
 - Designing and coding with CMS in mind...
- Design time: Start working on final project design

WD108: Session 3: Intro to PHP – Background and Setup

- Review
- Introduction to LAMP
(Handout: *WD108-WordPress 1 LAMP.pdf*)
- MAMP!
- Introduction to PHP
(Handout: *WD108-WordPress 1 PHP.pdf*)
- PHP Basics:
 - Variables
 - Arrays
 - Include Statements
 - Global variables
 - Conditional Statements

WD108: Session 4: PHP in Action – Take it for a Test Drive

- Class demonstration continued
- Work time

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WD108: Session 5: CMS – What You Need to Know

- Work time
- Discuss Databases: what they are and how you use them
(*Handout: WP108 WordPress 1 – Databases.pdf*)
 - Introduce PHP MyAdmin
 - How to create a database
 - How to export/back up a data base
 - How to upload a database
- CMS: What is it and what is out there
(*Handout: WP108 WordPress 1 – CMS.pdf*)
- WordPress: The good the bad and the ugly, a brief history and some background.

WD108: Session 6: WordPress – Getting Started

- WordPress Install: manual and one click install.
 - WordPress general file structure (wp-content folder)
- Dashboard
 - General Layout
 - Screen Options
 - Further customizations
- Post Types:
 - Pages
 - What it is
 - WYSIWYG
 - Publish Settings
 - Page Attributes
 - Custom Fields
 - Discussions
 - Quick Edit
 - Posts
 - Excerpt
 - Categories
 - Tags
 - Categories vs. Tags
 - Post vs. Page



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- Media
- Links
- Appearance:
(Handout: ***_themes/***)
 - Themes
 - Widgets
 - Menus
 - Editor
- Work Time:
 - Visual deliverable: Create a blog with word press. Skin it by finding a theme and populate it with content (pages and posts with multi media).

WD108: Session 7: Intro to WordPress – Background and Install

- Review
- Plugins
(Handout: ***_plugins/***)
 - What they do and why use one.
 - How to best use them
 - mu-plugins folder
- Users
- Settings
 - General Settings
 - Reading settings – front page and blog page
 - Discussion
 - Permalinks

WD108: Session 8: Wrapping things up

- Work Time: complete deliverable
 - Design Files
 - HTML and CSS (with jQuery)
 - Convert files to php files with include statements (like was done in class demonstration).