Assignment 2: Create a WordPress Theme

Due Date (101): March 8, 2016 at 2 p.m.

Due Date (102): March 8, 2016 at 6 p.m.

Due Date (103): March 10, 2016 at 2 p.m.

Description

As a group, create a WordPress theme for your fictitious client, using the Underscores theme as a starting point. This theme should follow the WordPress Theme Development Standards and include all of the relevant files.

Grading Criteria

You will be graded based on the following criteria:

1. *Functionality (20%)* - The actual implementation of the theme in a usable format. Your theme must work without any errors and/or observable bugs. Take into consideration usability of the theme by your client - they should be able to use the theme without needing to know code or have to customize anything just to add/edit their content. Also consider future use by your client - don't limit default functionality. **Your code should be original.** While we encourage the use of tutorials, blog posts, and the Codex to help you complete your assignments, you should manipulate and adapt this code to your own work.

2. *Options Page (10%)* - The theme must include an options page that allows users to customize the theme through a selection of settings. There should be at least three possible customizations available, all

of which must affect the live site and be relevant to the design and the client's needs.

3. *Enhanced Customization (20%)* - The theme must include a custom home page that displays more than just the most recent posts in list form as well as at least one type of enhanced customization above and beyond the standard theme development. For example, elements such as custom fields, meta boxes, custom post types, custom queries, a slider that displays the most recent posts, etc. The elements on the home page should result in a logical and appealing landing page for your client's site.

4. *Styling and Layout (20%)* - Create a unique, yet aesthetically-pleasing design and layout suitable for your client. Your styles will be checked for syntax errors. Also consider the site's information architecture and that all elements on each page make sense in terms of your client's needs. **Note: All styles must be in either the style.css file or an additional external stylesheet. Any additional CSS or JS files must be enqueued correctly.**

5. *Responsive Design (15%)* - Your theme must be responsive and optimized for multiple devices (desktop, laptop, phone, tablet) and operating systems (Windows/Mac). You will not need to design for every device and browser resolution, however, it is recommended that you style for the major breakpoints. In your stylesheet, include comments for each media query that outlines which resolution and/or device that code affects.

6. *Comments (5%)* - Your code must include detailed comments that explain what each piece of code does. Be as specific as possible, elaborating on the heavily technical details. For example: "The following conditional checks whether or not the animals array contains the value Elephant. If it does, then it echoes out a string acknowledging this fact." You must also cite any code you have taken from other sources (tutorials, books, blog posts, etc.).

7. *GitHub Upload (10%)* - You are required to upload your theme to your GitHub account and provide the link to it in your submission. We

should be able to review the history of your files and ongoing edits, not just the final result.

Note: Bonus marks may be awarded if any extra functionality of sufficient proportions is incorporated into your theme.

Note: You cannot use any third-party plugins for this assignment.

Requirements

You are required to use the Underscores theme as a starting point for this assignment. This theme can be downloaded from http://underscores.me/
This article provides a great explanation of what Underscores is and how it is used:
http://wptavern.com/introduction-to-underscores-a-wordpress-starter-theme-with-konstantin-obenland

---

Deliverables

1. Your theme must be uploaded and working on your Phoenix WordPress installation.
2. You will also submit a .zip file (.rar is not acceptable) of your theme, containing all of the associated files, as well as a .txt file that provides both the link to your WordPress installation and to your GitHub account.
3. The names of each group member, the name of the assignment, and a description of the assignment must be detailed in the code.

This assignment is worth 20% of your grade.