

WDMD 346 – Web Content Management Systems – Winterim 2010

M - F 8:30-12:00 p.m. (sec. 1) SCI A224

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Office Hours 12:00-1:00, M T W R and by appointment

Course Description

Introduction to the principles of open source web content management systems, with an emphasis on Drupal, Joomla and WordPress.

Objectives

- Gain an understanding of the basic features of the various types of content management systems (CMS).
- Establish selection criteria and apply them analytically to selecting a CMS.
- Develop proficiency in installing and configuring CMSs, including Drupal, Joomla and WordPress.
- Extend CMS functionality using components, modules and plug-ins.
- Deploy advanced CMS functionality, including community building, ecommerce, image galleries, and forums.

Required Materials and Texts

Mirav, Mehta. (2009). *Choosing an Open Source Content Management System*. Packt.
(text rental or [purchase as an e-book](#) for about \$22)

Hosting

A CMS requires a server to run. You have three options:

1. Install XAMPP and install and develop your Joomla and Drupal sites locally; or
2. Purchase server space through providers like Rothen, 1and1.com or GoDaddy.com; or
3. Temporary hosting on my server (no cost).

Assignments and Projects

Assignments will be announced in class and posted on D2L. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to check D2L for any homework assignments and supporting material which may have been given out during class.

All assignments will be turned into D2L. For each assignment, you will write a 1-2 paragraph design rationale that will be part of your WordPress blog. Describe:

- ⇒ What did you do?
- ⇒ What worked well?
- ⇒ What didn't work well?
- ⇒ What will you do differently in the future?

Turn in any peer review sheets during class on the due date. **Missing or incomplete design rationales or peer reviews will each result in losing ½ letter grade on your final grade.**

In-class assignments may not be made up, or turned in after the end of class.

Assignments and Projects - Continued

I recommend that you start working on assignments as soon as possible after they have been announced. Web projects almost always take longer than originally anticipated; starting early greatly increases your odds of completing the project to your satisfaction. Please call, email or see the instructor as soon as possible, and **before the due date**, with any questions or concerns about an assignment.

We will complete the following assignments, projects and quizzes this semester:

CMS Evaluation Matrix	100	WordPress Blog	100
WordPress (Hosted)	100	Final Project	200
Joomla or Drupal (Installed)	100	Miscellaneous*	100
Quizzes	100	Total	1,000

*Includes attendance and participation.

Writing Emphasis

Writing emphasis (WE) courses at UWSP are intended to sustain the practice of writing throughout your undergraduate academic career. This course meets WE goals in several ways; you will:

- experience discipline-specific writing through the creation of artifacts and documentation of user-centered design and usability practices;
- demonstrate written communication skills through critique of discipline-specific writings;
- learn to critique your writing and engage in constructive peer-review sessions; and
- improve your writing through the use of multiple drafts, self-evaluation, peer-review sessions, and individual conferences with the instructor

Due Date & Late Policy

Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due before the **beginning of class** on the due date. Late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade per weekday.

Attendance Policy

Winterim is an intense but rewarding experience. Your attendance and active participation in every class is vital.

Three or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Grading Scale

Final grades will be determined according to the following scale:

		A	100 – 94%	A-	93 – 91%
B+	90 – 88%	B	87 – 84%	B-	83 – 81%
C+	80 – 78%	C	77 – 74%	C-	73 – 71%
D+	70 – 68%	D	67 – 61%	F	< 61%

I reserve the right to lower the grading scale (e.g. it may require less than 94% to earn an A).

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, ask me or consult your university handbook. A description of your rights and responsibilities as a member of the UW-SP community can be found at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/>

Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures (UWS/UWSP Chapter 14) are available at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>

Cell Phones, IM and Recording Device Policy

Please turn off cell phones and pagers before entering the classroom. Cell phones may not be used in the classroom without prior permission of the instructor. Please close all IM programs or set your status to “busy” during class. If you would like to record (video or audio) any aspect of this course, please seek prior permission from the instructor.

File Storage

Save your work often, and make regular backups of your files. UWSP Information Technology cannot restore individual files, nor can they restore individual files should your UWSP account become inactive. Extensions on assignments **will not be given** on assignments which are late due to lost or damaged files.

Course Schedule

Meeting	Topic Covered	Reading	Items Due
Week 1			
Jan. 4	Introduction to Content Management Systems (CMS) Selecting a CMS Host	Chapter 13	
Jan. 5	Selecting a CMS	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8 WordPress documentation: New to WordPress Posting in WordPress WordPress for Beginners	WordPress (Hosted Solution)
Jan. 6	Building a site Content creation & editing Semester Project Introduction	Chapters 4, 5, 6	CMS Evaluation Matrix
Jan. 7	Quiz 1 Joomla: Basic installation Joomla: Configuration Troubleshooting	Joomla documentation: Installation Absolute Beginner's Guide	Create Joomla Account
Week 2			
Jan. 10	Drupal: Basic installation Drupal: Configuration	Drupal documentation: Understanding Drupal Installation Guide	Project Proposal
Jan. 11	Components, Modules & Plugins Configure: Users, Login, Captcha Configure: Navigation Configure: Templates	Joomla Documentation	
Jan. 12	Component Documentation Configure: Security & Backups Upgrades, Patches and Fixes	Chapter 7	Joomla or Drupal (Installed solution)
Jan. 13	Configure: Social Networking Extend: Galleries Extend: Community & Forums	Handouts	Project Plan
Jan. 14	Quiz 2 Extend: E-commerce Extend: Podcasting Extend: Mobile Devices	Chapters 10, 11, 12	Component Documentation
Week 3			
Jan. 17	No Class – Martin Luther King Junior Day		
Jan. 18	Search Engine Optimization (SEO) Search Engine Friendly URLs (SEF)	Chapter 12	
Jan. 19	Getting Involved Consulting	Chapters 14, 15	
Jan. 20	Quiz 3		WordPress Blog Final Project