

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION II

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER

COMM 683

COURSE TITLE

WORDPRESS THEME DEVELOPMENT

TYPE COURSE

NON-FEE

VOCATIONAL

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course allows students to build their own WordPress theme. Students use a combination of Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), JavaScript, and Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP) to develop a fully custom WordPress theme. Students learn how to organize and write the necessary files to ensure that their static designs can be translated into a custom CMS template. (FT)

LECTURE/LABORATORY HOURS

120

ADVISORIES

Completion of COMM 682 Content Management Systems II

RECOMMENDED SKILL LEVEL

Possess a 10th grade reading level; ability to communicate effectively in the English language.

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Social Responsibility
SDCCE students demonstrate interpersonal skills by learning and working cooperatively in a diverse environment.
2. Effective Communication
SDCCE students demonstrate effective communication skills.
3. Critical Thinking
SDCCE students critically process information, make decisions, and solve problems independently or cooperatively.

4. Personal and Professional Development

SDCCE students pursue short term and life-long learning goals, mastering necessary skills and using resource management and self-advocacy skills to cope with changing situations in their lives.

5. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Anti-racism and Access

SDCCE students critically and ethically engage with local and global issues using principles of equity, civility, and compassion as they apply their knowledge and skills: exhibiting awareness, appreciation, respect, and advocacy for diverse individuals, groups, and cultures.

COURSE GOALS

1. Identify necessary requirements in order to create a custom WordPress theme.
2. Understand how to organize a static web design and break down the various sections for build-out in a dynamic WordPress website.
3. Understand how to use the WordPress codex to locate template tags and functions that WordPress uses.
4. Understand what PHP is.
5. Learn how to use PHP, CSS and JavaScript to develop a custom WordPress theme.
6. Learn how to publish a custom theme to the web.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. Explain what the necessary theme files are and understand what each theme file controls.
2. Create a conversion workflow that diagrams out what parts of a static webpage will align with the various PHP template files.
3. Reference and use the WordPress codex to find the appropriate template tags and functions to develop using WordPress.
4. Write a custom PHP function that will pull in a unique font for use on their website
5. Code PHP functions that will pull content from the database and display it on the rendered page.
6. Utilize a custom theme on a live website.

SECTION II

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE

1. Requirements to Create a WordPress Theme
 - 1.1. Theme structure
 - 1.2. Hierarchy of template parts
 - 1.3. Explanation of necessary theme files
 - 1.4. Anatomy of theme template files
 - 1.5. Structure of a theme folder
 - 1.6. Organizing WordPress related files
 - 1.7. Creating using the (Don't Repeat Yourself) DRY principle

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2. From Static to Dynamic
 - 2.1. Planning
 - 2.2. Starting with a static design

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

- 2.3. Conversion workflow
3. Using the WordPress Codex
 - 3.1. What is the WordPress codex?
 - 3.2. How to find what you need
4. PHP
 - 4.1. Understanding the basics of PHP
 - 4.2. How PHP works with WordPress
 - 4.3. Common PHP for use in WordPress
 - 4.3.1. Functions
 - 4.3.2. Arrays
 - 4.3.3. Loops
 - 4.3.4. Hooks
 - 4.3.5. WP_Query
5. Creating a Custom Theme
 - 5.1. Building the style.css file
 - 5.2. Creating the index.php file
 - 5.3. Retrieving the database posts
 - 5.4. Displaying posts on a page
 - 5.5. Creating the functions.php file
 - 5.6. Creating the header and footer
 - 5.7. Creating the loop
 - 5.7.1. What is the loop?
 - 5.7.2. How we can use the loop
 - 5.8. Creating menus
 - 5.9. Working with posts
 - 5.10. Working with pages
 - 5.11. Working with widgets
 - 5.12. Creating a 404 template
 - 5.13. Creating the search page
6. Publishing Your Custom Theme
 - 6.1. Packaging your theme
 - 6.2. Deploying your theme

APPROPRIATE READINGS

Reading assignments may include, but are not limited to, assignments from the textbook, supplemental reading assignments, industry-related periodicals or magazines, manuals, online help pages, articles posted on the Internet, and information from Web sites, online libraries and databases. Topics should be related to CMS systems, coding with PHP, and using PHP in conjunction with WordPress.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

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Writing assignments may include, but are not limited to, completing assigned reports, providing written answers to assigned questions, performing internet research and reporting on that research. An example would include a research report / comparison on the use of various WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (CONTINUED)

plugins to solve a specific issue within the context of WordPress.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS

Outside assignments may include, but are not limited to appropriate internet research, reading from assigned textbooks and completing the assignments at the end of each chapter, and studying as needed to perform successfully in class. An appropriate outside assignment for instance, could include the creation of a WordPress website that utilizes the WooCommerce plugin to provide web store-like functionality for the WordPress website.

APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL THINKING

Assignments which demonstrate critical thinking may include, but are not limited to writing valid code, debugging necessary code, testing a custom-built theme and deploying the theme.

EVALUATION

Evaluation methods may include but are not limited to performance in a variety of activities and assignments, such as developing a custom theme and then using that theme to build a dynamic website. Students must be able to develop and code a static website and then take that design and code and convert it for use with a WordPress CMS. Students must show they understand how to use the necessary code in the correct manner and be able to successfully demonstrate a functioning, and fully custom CMS. Additional methods of evaluation may include quizzes, class participation, written and practical tests, attendance, and punctuality.

Upon successful completion of all courses in the program a Certificate of Program Completion will be issued.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Methods of instruction, may include, but are not limited to, lectures, in-class and online discussions, hands-on demonstrations, computer-assisted instruction, field trips, and laboratory assignments.

This course, or sections of this course, may be offered through distance education.

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

Books:

WordPress: The Missing Manual: The Book That Should Have Been in the Box Matthew MacDonald, O'Reilly Media, current edition

Online Video Training:

<https://www.linkedin.com/learning/>

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)

Supplies:

- Optional: Pen, journal (composition book), notebook paper and a soft 3-ring binder, or a one-subject 110 sheet college ruled notebook; and
- Optional: Appropriate storage media such as a USB Drive, external hard drive, or cloud-based storage; and
- Required: A hosting platform that supports the installation of a CMS and database.

PREPARED BY Emily Kay DATE May 3, 2023

REVISED BY _____ DATE _____

Instructors must meet all requirements stated in Policy 5500 (Student Rights, Responsibilities and Administrative Due Process), and the Attendance Policy set forth in the Continuing Education Catalog.

REFERENCES:

San Diego Community College District Policy 5500
California Community Colleges, Title 5, Section 55002
College of Continuing Education Catalog