Topics in Web, Interaction & Screen Design: PHP & WORDPRESS
Spring 2017
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Abbreviated Syllabus
The syllabus below is a brief overview of what you can expect in PHP & Wordpress. The complete syllabus will be available at the beginning of Spring 17 semester on the course D2L site.

Catalog Description
Exploration of concepts and technologies in web, interaction and screen design.

Course Objectives
• experiment with dynamic pages (PHP)
• explore Content Management Systems (Wordpress)
• learn the basics of databases (MySQL)
• refine design skills (navigation, interface, information hierarchy, usability)
• strengthen CSS knowledge base and refine CSS skills
• develop compelling content for the web (client-based and/or creative)

Course Description
This course will introduce server-side scripting (PHP), databases (MySql) and Content Management Systems (Wordpress).

ART 324 Web Design is a prerequisite to this course, so it is expected that students already have a strong understanding of HTML5 and CSS, semantic and structural markup, as well as issues of usability, information design and screen design.

There will be opportunities to strengthen and expand these skills during the semester. Most class time will be spent on lectures and technical demonstrations, and will include opportunities to complete short, in-class exercises. You are required to come to class prepared and ready to work, with any assignments complete. In addition, you are expected to spend between 5 and 10 hours a week outside of class on homework: coding practice, video tutorials and exercises, "critical web surfing," online discussions and critiques, and work on assignments.

Coursework will consist of exercises and projects that teach technical skills as well as creative and effective design. We’ll be using lynda.com tutorials for most of the technical support for the course content.

We’ll be moving quickly through the semester’s material. It is essential to stay on top of assignments and complete work, including outside assignments like video tutorials, in a timely fashion. There is a direct correspondence between the effort you put into the coursework and your mastery of the content. The course content is cumulative; later work assumes mastery of earlier work.
Workload Statement
In ART 424 PHP and WordPress you can expect the following workload:
Time in class: 5hrs/week x 15 weeks = approx. 75 hours
Time spent on work outside of class (studying, watching videos, reading, doing homework, doing projects) = approx 100 hours
Total estimated workload of class = approximately 175 hours (11.5 hours per week estimate)

Attendance
Prompt and regular attendance is very important. Attendance is considered part of your work for this class, and it will be evaluated along with your projects, class participation, etc. I will begin class promptly, and the first part of class will contain structured information.

Assignments
Coursework will consist of numerous in-class exercises, several technical "mini-projects," several self-directed "mini-projects," small quizzes, and a larger final project. Each project has a detailed project brief.

You are required to complete all assigned work according to its published deadlines. In-class exercises that are not complete by the end of class should be completed as homework before the next class. Larger projects have several intermediate due dates. You must keep up and have the in-process work completed by those intermediate due dates as well as completing the project in its entirety on the final due date.

Every scored assignment is supported by a combination of in-class and out-of-class activities which must be completed for mastery of course content and successful completion of assignments.

Evaluation
Projects will be evaluated according to the specific goals and parameters outlined in the project brief. Each project will have clear objectives, process, timeline and deliverables. All work is due, in its entirety, on its published due date. Extensions are not normally granted unless there are extenuating circumstances, and they must be negotiated between the student and instructor well before the due date in question. Incomplete or late work (including preliminary work) will be downgraded accordingly.

Laptop Requirement
Some programs in PSOA require students to have a laptop (check your program requirements to see if this applies to you).

MIT 367 has four workstations for people without laptops. However, you will need a laptop to be able to use your desktop server, so if you don't have one, you will have to upload all your exercises to a live server. If you do not have a laptop or desktop computer, you will need to complete your projects in one of the campus ccl’s.

Laptops are highly recommended for this course.
**Required Materials/Supplies/Books**
digital storage media (CD, flash drive, etc...)
note-taking equipment (recommend a notebook dedicated to this course)
CDs/flash drives for turning in your web sites.
desktop server: **MAMP** for Mac and PCs, **XAMPP** if for some reason you don't want to use MAMP.
FTP client (**Fetch** for Macs, **SmartFTP** for PC, **Cyberduck** for Mac or PC)

**Recommended Books (if you like books)**
To be announced soon.