

## **Syllabus: Design & Development for WordPress – Beyond the Blog**

Instructor: Michael Newman – mjnewman@pomp.com

Summer 2011. Thursday 3:00 – 6:00pm

06/23/2011 – 09/08/2011

### **Description**

WordPress has grown from an open source blog application to a powerful and extendable publishing platform. In this project-based course students will design and develop a dynamic website utilizing WordPress as a CMS. Concepts include designing for dynamic websites, WordPress fundamentals, creating custom themes, website maintenance, and extending WordPress. *Prerequisites: Photoshop I & Dreamweaver I*

WordPress is a popular tool for designers and developers alike. The WordPress community has created hundreds of freely available themes that allow one to change the look and feel of a WordPress website with ease. Modifying existing, as well as creating custom themes can facilitate rapid development of dynamic websites with stunning graphic design.

### **Course Objectives**

Learn the fundamentals of designing and developing dynamic websites by utilizing and extending the WordPress platform.

### **Requirements**

Proficiency with Photoshop, HTML and CSS.

### **Grading**

Course grade will be derived from the following:

- Weekly Projects
- Final Project
- Class Participation
- Attendance

### **Projects**

Students will be assigned weekly or bi-weekly projects from which the majority of the final grade will be derived.

In addition to weekly projects a final project will be assigned.

Projects will be presented and discussed in class.

### **Course Materials**

Available online at <http://beyond.pomp.com>

Syllabus is subject to revision.

## Required Materials

Website hosting provider:

WordPress Installed or WordPress compatible

SFTP & SSH access

Hosting providers include:

BlueHost – <http://www.bluehost.com/>

DreamHost – <http://www.dreamhost.com/wp.html>

JustHost – <http://www.justhost.com/>

Software:

Text Editor

FTP Client

SSH Client

Navicat Lite – <http://navicat.com/en/download/download.html>

Photoshop

## Suggested Reading

[CSS the Definitive Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition](#) by Eric Meyer

[Programming PHP 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#) by Lerdorf, Tatroe & MacIntyre

[Web Designer Magazine](#) Online at [WebDesignerMag.co.uk](http://WebDesignerMag.co.uk)

## **Schedule**

*Week 1*

**Managing & Configuring Wordpress**

*Week 2*

**Understanding & Modifying Themes**

*Week 3*

**Designing Dynamic Websites**

*Week 4*

**Wordpress as a CMS**

*Week 5*

**Wordpress Database & PHP Essentials**

*Week 6*

**Creating Custom Themes 1**

*Week 7*

**Creating Custom Themes 2**

*Week 8*

**Wordpress, JQuery & AJAX**

*Week 9*

**Extending Wordpress**

*Week 10*

**Development Workshop**

*Week 11*

**Development Workshop**

*Week 12*

**Wordpress & Beyond – Now what?**