LIS 690: Content Management Systems

University of Kentucky - Instructor: Kosta Tovstiai

Syllabus

See also: Course Schedule and Course Assignments

LIS 690 204 Spring 2012: Special Topics in Library and Information Science: Content Management Systems

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Course website: http://lis.mikt.net (we will use Blackboard for grades only)

Times of online sessions and office hours
Weekly sessions: Tuesday 3-5 PM (each meeting will be announced by e-mail and on the course site; some weeks will have none and some weeks the meeting will only be an hour long).
First week of class special session: January 11, Wednesday 3-5 PM
Virtual office hours: every Friday 3-5 PM
Face-to-face office hours: By appointment (I am usually in the office 9 to 5, my office is Rm. 351 in Little Library)

Course description
The course focuses on the practice and theory of designing, building and maintaining content management systems.

Course objectives
By the end of the course, you will:
1. Be able to build an advanced CMS using open source code (Drupal 7)
2. Understand the technological foundation of CMS (markup languages, styling, web applications, relational databases)
3. Understand the theoretical foundation of CMS (content strategy, information architecture, analytics, usability, responsive design)

Prerequisites
No programming or coding knowledge is necessary. Previous experience with web project is a plus, but a complete beginner can succeed in this course as well.

Textbooks and resources
You don’t need to buy any books, software or hardware for this class. We will only use open source software for our projects. You will be provided with an account on the instructor’s server to install the software. All you need is a computer and a good Internet connection.

Code of conduct
It is the student’s responsibility to review the student code at http://uky.edu/studentaffairs/code

On top of the standard code expectations, there are some specific requirements in this course. Since you will have access to a server and privileges to install applications and alter databases, any use of these resources beyond the course assignments will be regarded as academic misconduct and promptly acted upon. This includes any attempt at gaining greater access to the resources than granted by the instructor (=hacking), any attempt to use the given web space for sharing personal files, or any post that includes questionable content such as obscenities, hate speech, or nudity. Your personal judgment and experience with the web should be a sufficient guide to avoid problems; if you are unsure about how this policy applies to you, please consult the instructor. There is a zero tolerance in this class for malicious hacking
activity on the assigned server space. As you learn the class content, you will break some things unintentionally; that is perfectly acceptable and doesn’t violate any rules. Any intentional attempt at hacking will result in an automatic low grade (E) in the class.

**Grading Scale**

A = 100-90 / B = 89-80 / C = 79-70 / D = 69-60 / E = 59-0

Please refer to the [Course Assignments](#) description to see how many points each task is worth.

**Late Work Policy**

Assignments must be turned in by the established deadline. Late assignments will be accepted for 24 hours after the established deadline with a grade penalty of 20%. No assignment will be accepted if over 24 hours late. Partial credit and late submissions don't work with Tiny Tasks. An overdue Tiny Task will always be zero points - even it is only a minute overdue. These are generally too small and easy to warrant any other policy.

**Reasonable Accommodation Statement**

If you have a special need that may require an accommodation or assistance, please inform the instructor as soon as possible and no later than the end of the second week of class.

**How to make the most of this class**

- Be inquisitive about technology, be willing to try and figure out new tools and solutions. Be prepared to work with problems until they are solved, because code does and will break and repair can be time-consuming and frustrating. You need to have good search skills, so that you are able to find solutions to problems that you run into while working with your CMS.
- This course builds skills week by week so it is essential not to lag behind. If you feel like you are lagging behind, contact the instructor as soon as possible.
- Use the provided anonymous feedback form to request changes or share concerns at any time during the semester
- You will be given access to your practice site very early on; the final project site will be given to you a few weeks later. You learn and test things on the practice site, and build your final product on the final project site. Don’t wait till the last minute to start working on the final project.
Assignments

See also: Course Schedule and Course Syllabus

Detailed descriptions of each assignment will be provided during the semester. We may add or abandon assignments depending on how we manage through the semester.

**Tiny Tasks - 1 point each - 35 total points**

Tiny tasks are small concrete practical tasks that you will perform throughout the semester. They serve as checks of your progress in the course. Each will come with its own description and set of instructions.

1. Planning feedback - Due January 12, by the end of the day
2. Log into the support site and update your profile - Due January 13, by the end of the day
3. Initial final project ideas - Due January 18, by the end of the day
4. Download and install an FTP client
5. Write HTML by hand
6. Upload an image
7. Write CSS by hand
8. Install an SQL Client
9. Write a PHP loop application
10. Install Drupal, add admin account
11. Join the Drupal community
12. Find three model sites
13. Create a new content type / Add 3 nodes using it
14. Create a custom block
15. Create a custom menu
16. Prepare for a Google Analytics setup
17. Build a concordance
18. Analyze your concordance with n-grams
19. Describe your National Day of Unplugging experience
20. Find three useful modules
21. Suggest a UX improvement
22. Test a contributed module
23. Test a core module
24. Views task 1
25. Views task 2
26. Suggest an optional feature for the Final Project
27. Views task 3
28. Views task 4
29. Views task 5
30. Views task 6
31. List your choices for the final project optional features
32. Enable spam protection
33. Create a webform
34. Add Kosta as an admin to final project sites - Due May 3rd end of the day with the final project
35. Commit to your choices for the final project optional features - Due May 3rd end of the day with the final project

**Side Stories - 5 points each - 25 total points**

Side stories explore theoretical and practical area adjacent to content management which will give you a wider perspective on content management. Each will come with one or two selected readings. You will write a short paper or perform a practical research task around each subject.

1. **Knowledge management** - Due January 25, by the end of the day
2. Content Strategy & Information Architecture
3. Web analytics and business intelligence
4. Responsive web design, accessibility and usability
5. Mobile development

**Drupal Study - 5 points**

A joint project with UKIT / UK PR and the provost-lead committee on UK Web Strategy. Our role is to perform a review of UK sites and give recommendations to the committee.

**Drupal Sprint - 5 points**

A 24 hour window to create a simple CMS from scratch.

**Final Project - 30 points total**

Business proposal - 4 points, due in March (TBA)
One-on-one online meeting with Kosta - 2 points, last two weeks of class
Participation in other students’ final projects - 4 points, Due last week of class
Final project itself - 20 points - Due May 3rd by the end of the day