



Using WordPress to Build a Simple Website

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description

This introductory class is designed for beginners who want to create and manage their own websites using WordPress. Students will explore WordPress's strengths, limitations, and core features while learning how to customize their sites with themes and plugins. By the end of the class, students will have built a simple, fully functional website.

01

Introduction to WordPress

- What WordPress is and why it's popular
- WordPress.com vs. WordPress.org
- Advantages of using WordPress over hand-coding
- Limitations and considerations

02

Getting Started

- Setting up a WordPress site (local install or hosting provider setup)
- Navigating the WordPress dashboard
- Understanding pages vs. posts
- Key settings to configure before building
- Hands-on: access local copy of wordpress and navigate

03

Themes and Customization

- What themes are and how to choose them
- Installing and activating themes
- Adjusting site identity (title, tagline, logo, favicon)
- Basic layout and design options
- Hands-on: select a theme and customize

04

Plugins

- What plugins are and how they extend functionality
- Installing, activating, and managing plugins
- Essential beginner-friendly plugins (SEO, security, contact forms, backups)
- Hands-on: install a sample plugin

05

Creating Content & Menus

- Adding and formatting pages
- Creating and managing blog posts
- Working with the block editor (Gutenberg)
- Embedding media (images, video, audio)
- Creating navigation menus
- Hands-on: create a new page, a new post, and navigation menu

06

Managing Your Website

- Updating WordPress, themes, and plugins safely
- Backing up your site
- Basic site security tips

07

Next Steps and Continuing Growth

- Introduction to more advanced features (custom themes, page builders, e-commerce)
- Resources for continued learning
- Tips for growing a website

08

Questions & Comments