Introduction to Wordpress: Building a class online

WordPress is web software you can use to create a beautiful website or blog. We like to say that WordPress is both free and priceless at the same time.

The core software is built by hundreds of community volunteers, and when you’re ready for more there are thousands of plugins and themes available to transform your site into almost anything you can imagine. Over 60 million people have chosen WordPress to power the place on the web they call “home” — we’d love you to join the family.

Ready to get started?  Download WordPress 3.4.2.
What is Wordpress?

• Online blogging system that has been extended to general content management
• Open source software
• Requires you to have a web server: we can employ university web servers
• Simple interface, easy to use
• Well-supported and widely employed
What can you do with Wordpres?

- Posting news items or blog posting
- Conduct discussions via comment system or a range of available forum plug-ins
- Configurable users with a range of access options allow you to open parts or all of the site to students or colleagues for editing
- Content management allows you to upload files and media and make them available to registered users or the entire Internet
- Themes permit easy modification of the visual design
- Easy to post and maintain the site over time
Why Wordpress over Blackboard?

• Gives you more options
• Designing from the ground up means not having to disable or modify Blackboard templates
• Psychological distinctiveness: not the same as all the other course sites in Blackboard
• Content and site can be opened to the public, isn’t tied to semester system
• Multisite allows you to network individual Wordpress sites together
How to start

• Do you need to use Wordpress? What would you like to accomplish?
• Contact eTech for support and a dedicated webspace: at present, you’d e-mail Amy Garner at aradowdle@as.ua.edu
• Want a theme? UA has a dedicated Wordpress theme: see webguide.ua.edu/wordpress.html
• Or you can search through other themes on the Wordpress.org site. Or design your own with eTech/FRC support!
• Plugins? You can find loads on the Wordpress site.
Considering usage and features

• Depends entirely upon what you want to accomplish
• Always helpful to consult (with eTech, with Digital Humanities people, with students or colleagues)
• Wordpress can be easily expanded: don’t feel you must make all decisions immediately. Prioritize and go!
Wordpress in action
Edifice Project site

Paradise Lost marathon reading
On Friday April 27th, the Spring 2012 Milton class will conduct a marathon reading of Paradise Lost in the Pearce lobby of Foster Library. We'll begin reading at 6 AM and continue until we've finished, most likely sometime around 5 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us, either to listen or to read.

April 9th, 2012 | Uncategorised | Tags: news, Paradise Lost, reading | No Comments

Strode Seminar speakers, Spring 2012
Here are the speakers coming to campus this spring who may be of interest to members of our class. Steve Fallon will be joining us in class on March 5th. Links provided to bios of the professors in question.

February 27th (Monday): Heather Dubraw
5 PM lecture
"Wandering Form": New Approaches to the Early Modern Epithalamium and Other Poetry"

February 28th (Tuesday): Heather Dubraw poetry reading

March 5th (Monday): Steve Fallon
March 6th (Tuesday): 5 PM lecture
"Inspirited with Contradiction": John Milton's Conflicting Certainties"

March 26th (Monday): Ken Hiltner
5 PM lecture
"Paradise Lost in the Early Modern Milton Society (Global Edition) Beyond"
Site tour

• What visitors see:
  - http://edificeproject.ua.edu/

• Administrative tools:
  - http://edificeproject.ua.edu/wp-login.php
Dashboard

Akismet is almost ready. You must enter your Akismet API key for it to work.

Recent Comments
No comments yet.

Incoming Links
This dashboard widget queries Google Blog Search so that when another blog links to your site, it will show up here. It has found no incoming links... yet. It's okay — there is no rush.

Plugins
Most Popular
Jetpack by WordPress.com (Install)
Supercharge your WordPress site with powerful features previously only available to WordPress.com users.

WordPress Development Blog

WordPress 3.5 Beta 2 is now available for download and testing. This is software still in development, so we don’t recommend that you run it on a production site. Set up a test site to play with the new version. To test WordPress 3.5, by the WordPress Beta Tester plugin (you'll want 'bleeding' [...])

WordPress 3.5 Beta 1 (and a bonus) September 27, 2012
I'm excited to announce the availability of WordPress 3.5 Beta 1. This is software still in development and we really don't recommend that you run it on a production site — set up a test site just to play with the new version. To test WordPress 3.5, by the WordPress Beta Tester plugin (you'll want 'bleeding' [...]) Or you can download [...])

Other WordPress News
Weblog tools collection: Less spam since Jetpack Comments
Edit pages

Research Library

Part of the Edifice Project involves making the best of student writing and thought available to future classes. Writing assignments will be designed specifically to draw upon this existing research library formed by the students of previous years, overlapping their work without repeating it. The links below will lead to a library of papers based on class and subject. I have edited these papers for minor spelling and grammatical errors and standardized their citations of Milton's poetry and prose.

*Parents and Children: Spring 2011*

The Tuscaldos' tandem of Spring 2011 resulted in only a single submission for the website, as final paper assignments were made optional for all students.


Word count: 893

Last edited by dainsworth on October 12, 2011 at 11:45 am
Upload content
Pedagogical utility

• Extend the classroom to the Internet (as opposed to the sequestered space of a Blackboard course site)
• Permit or require posting to comments or a forum
• Permit or require blog posts from students
• Collect and distribute content generated by any authorized user
• Make materials available to Internet browsers at large
• Accrete material over many semesters rather than overwriting and replacing