

ART 441 – WEB DESIGN

Texts + Course Module Overview

TEXTS

- MDN Web Docs (HTML + CSS reference) and instructor-provided code samples
- Accessibility guidelines and checklists (WCAG-informed summaries + best practices)
- CMS and deployment references (WordPress concepts, hosting, DNS, and publishing workflow)

COURSE MODULES

- 1) Web Design Workflow & Standards — Establish production habits: planning artifacts, file organization, and standards-compliant output.
- 2) Information Architecture & Content Strategy — Build sitemap, navigation model, and page priorities based on goals, users, and tasks.
- 3) Sketching & Wireframes — Translate IA into low-fidelity layouts for desktop and mobile before committing to visuals or code. Introduction to Figma
- 4) Responsive Layout Planning — Define breakpoints, grids, and component behavior for mobile-first, scalable page structure.
- 5) Typography, Hierarchy & Web Readability — Apply type scale, spacing, and hierarchy to improve scanning, clarity, and conversion.
- 6) Semantic HTML Foundations — Write clean, semantic structure (headings, landmarks, lists, forms) that supports accessibility and SEO.
- 7) CSS Fundamentals & Layout Systems — Use the box model, Flexbox, and modern CSS patterns to build reliable page layouts.
- 8) Accessibility & Inclusive Front-End — Design and code for contrast, focus states, keyboard navigation, and readable interaction patterns.

- 9) Components, Reuse & Design Systems — Create reusable UI components and consistent styling rules to reduce errors and speed production.
- 10) Assets, Performance & QA — Optimize images/SVG, handle web fonts responsibly, and test for speed and cross-browser consistency.
- 11) CMS Thinking for Designers — Compare WordPress/Drupal approaches, content models, and how templates/components affect UX and scalability.
- 12) AI-Assisted Web Practice — Use AI selectively for ideation or code refinement while validating output and explaining decisions.
- 13) Deployment, Hosting & DNS Basics — Publish a site to a public server, configure domains/DNS, and document a professional launch workflow.
- 14) Portfolio Website Launch & Iteration — Final polish, usability checks, fixes from feedback, and a live portfolio-ready website.