
HIS 4164 Digital History

Spring 2021

Asynchronous Lecture

Instructor Information:

Prof. Jennifer Koslow

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Office Zoom Hours: Tuesdays 10am-11am
& by apt.

Departmental Phone: 850.644.5888

Course Description:

This course examines the theory and practice of the ways in which history is collected, preserved, and interpreted using digital mediums. As a class, we will explore the critical debates surrounding the opportunities and limitations in using new media in historical practice, which entails researching, writing, and presenting historical arguments. Building on those analyses, we will evaluate the utility of digital tools for historical practice. Students will also engage in the process of creating digital history themselves.

There are no prerequisites for this course. Also, there are no special computer/technical skills required to take this class.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be able to

1. state the history of computing and of the World Wide Web for doing History
2. classify different types of digital resources for historical practice
3. employ digital tools for researching and presenting history
4. state the issues of copyright for doing history in a digital medium
5. generate an evaluation of the legitimacy of using digital resources for historical practice by critiquing existing applications of scholarship in order to learn from past successes and failures
6. generate an original piece of digital history. In doing so, students will demonstrate the ability to
 - a. select, critically evaluate, and apply relevant areas of scholarship to produce an original scholarly project that reflects a body of knowledge relevant to this course
 - b. articulate the process of producing a work, from initial plan, to critique, revision, and completion

Required Readings:

- Bill Adair, Letting Go? Sharing Historical Authority in a User-Generated World (Routledge, 2011)
- Beverly Serrell, Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach (Alta Mira Press, 2015)
- Additional articles will be assigned throughout the semester. They will be either uploaded to our course management website or available through FSU libraries

System Requirements:

You will need internet access. You will also be using a software program called Omeka, which is available for free from the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media:
<https://rrchnm.org/what-we-do/>

University Requirements:

Computer Competency: This course has been approved to fulfill FSU's Computer Competency Graduation Requirement. However, majors other than History must check with their departmental advisor to see whether this class satisfies the computer skills competency for her/his major. In order to fulfill FSU's Computer Competency Requirement, the student must earn a "C-" or better in this course.

Scholarship in Practice: *Liberal Studies for the 21st Century* builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive intellectually and materially and to engage critically and effectively in their

Grading Scale:

Some Assignment Grades will be by letter. The letter grades will be translated into the following %s for computing final grades.

A=95% | A-=91% | B+ = 88% | B=85% | B-=81% | C+=78% | C=75% | C-=71% | D+= 68% | D=65% | D-=61% | F = 55%; not turning in an assignment will result in a 0.

Final Grades:

93.5 to 100%=A | 89.5 to 93.4%=A- | 86.5 to 89.4%= B+ | 82.5 to 86.4%=B | 79.5 to 82.4%=B- | 76.5 to 79.4%= C+ | 72.5 to 76.4%=C | 69.5 to 72.4%=C- | 66.5 to 69.4%= D+ | 62.5 to 66.4%=D | 59.5 to 62.4%=D- | 0 to 59.4%= F

Late Assignments:

Assignments turned in late with written documentation that meets the University Attendance Policy will not receive a penalty provided documentation is provided within two weeks of the missed assignment. (For Spring 2021, I will not be asking for documentation related to illness. Instead, students need to email me within two weeks of the missed assignment to notify me that they (or a family member/dependent) were ill, otherwise I will apply the late assignment policy.)

Some assignments (but not all) may be turned in late even if you do not have written documentation that meets the University Attendance Policy.

- *Blogs and tweets* MAY be turned in late without documentation but there is a penalty. These late assignments will be assessed a third of a grade penalty for each twenty-four hours they are late. (If the assignment would have received an A if it had been turned in on time, it would receive an A- if it was turned in within twenty-four hours of missing the deadline.)
- The *wikis, quizzes, and benchmarks for the digital project* may be turned in late without documentation for half credit.
- Without documentation, I will **NOT** accept any late **final digital projects**. These assignments must be completed on time or forfeit credit.

Required Assignments:

- 1) 5 individual blogs (total 25%)
- 2) 5 individual tweets (total 10%)
- 3) Wiki Group (total 10%)
- 4) Quizzes (15%)
- 5) Digital History Project (benchmarks 5%; presentation 5%; final project 30%)

See separate document "Required Assignments" for full instructions. **If you do not hand in a final project, you will not be**

communities. In this way, Liberal Studies courses provide a comprehensive intellectual foundation and transformative educational experience, helping FSU students to become: Critical thinkers, creative users of knowledge, and independent learners (Scholarship in Practice). Prior to graduation, students must complete two courses of this type. Students may complete one of the two courses required in this area by completing an approved Formative Experience. In order to fulfill FSU's Scholarship in Practice Requirement, the student must earn a "C-" or higher in this course.

eligible to receive a grade greater than a D+ for the course no matter how well you have done on the rest of the course.

Class Topics & Schedule:

Topic 1: Introductions (Week 1, Jan 6-8)

Topic 2: Historical Methods 101 (Week 2, Jan 11-15)

Topic 3: Issues of Copyright (Week 3, Jan 19-22)

Topic 4: History of Computing and the World Wide Web (Week 4, Jan 25-29)

Topic 5: Popular & Public History Online (Weeks 5 Feb 1-5)

Topic 6: Thinking About Hypertext, Issues of Narrative, and Authorship (Weeks 6 & 7, Feb 8-19)

Topic 7: Born Digital, Collecting Online, and Issues of Authenticity (Weeks 8 & 9, Feb 22-March 5)

Topic 8: Digital History Tools (Weeks 10 & 11, March 8-19)

Topic 9: Designing for the Digital World (Week 12, March 22-26)

Topic 10: Finding and Cultivating an Audience (Weeks 13 & 14, March 29- April 9)

Presentations of Final Projects (Week 15, April 12-16)

Final Project due Wednesday April 21 by 11:59pm

Optional Zooms. Every week I will hold a 30-minute optional zoom session for us to discuss the materials and be together synchronously. This will be on Fridays at 11am.

University Policies:

University Attendance Policy:

Excused absences include documented illness*, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. (For Spring 2021, I will not be asking for documentation related to illness. Instead, students need to email me within one week of the missed assignment to notify me that they were ill, otherwise I will apply the late assignment policy.)

Academic Honor Policy:

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>.)

Americans With Disabilities Act:

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

- (1) Must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);
- (2) Must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
- (3) Should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
<https://dsst.fus.edu/oas>

Confidential Campus Resources:

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program University Center A. Rm. 4100 (850) 644-7161 Available 24/7/365 Office Hours: M-F 8-5 https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap	University Counseling Center Askew Student Life Center, 2 nd floor 942 Learning Way (850) 644-8255 https://counseling.fsu.edu	University Health Services Health and Wellness Center (850) 644-6230 https://uhs.fsu.edu
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Syllabus Change Policy

"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."