

History 7372: Digital History

Spring 2019
Student Union A, room 102-c
Tuesday Evenings, 6pm
Office hours: Tuesday 2-3pm and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will learn about digital history. We will read texts on the main issues in digital and public history, and we will read about metadata and other concepts essential to practicing digital history. We will also create a website together in the platforms Omeka and Wordpress from a larger collection at the Library Congress. Finally, we will learn some basic computational methods in the programming language R, and apply those methods to some primary sources from our collective websites.

GRADES

Three projects (omeka, Wordpress, R): 75% (25% each)
Class participation: 25%

BOOK

Jeffrey Pomerantz, *Metadata* (2015)

ATTENDANCE

You can miss one class without any questions. After that your grade can be lowered for each additional absence (two missed classes, down one grade, etc). You cannot pass the class if you miss three classes or more.

Students with Disabilities:

Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor(s) and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC, at 501-569-3143 (V/TTY) or 501-683-7629 (VP). For more information, please visit the DRC website at www.ualr.edu/disability.

SCHEDULE

Part 1: Thinking about Digital History

Week 1: Introduction: (January 22)

Week 2: (January 29): **No class**

Week 3: Debates and Metadata: (February 5)

Lincoln Mullen, "A Braided Narrative for Digital History" (forthcoming 2019)

Sheila Brennan, "Public, First": <http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/debates/text/83> (2016)

Pomerantz, *Metadata*, chapters 1-2

Week 4: Metadata, Organization, and Digital Objects (February 12)

Pomerantz, *Metadata*, chapters 3-6 (chapters 7 and 8 recommended)

Trevor Owens, *The Theory and Craft of Digital Preservation* (2018), chapter 2, "Understanding Digital Objects"

Recommended: Louis Rosenfeld, Peter Morville, and Jorge Arango, *Information Architecture for the Web and Beyond* (Fourth Edition, 2015), chapters 6-10

Part II: Creating Sites in Omeka and WordPress

Week 5: Standards for Digital Exhibitions (February 19):

Grace L. Barth, Laura Drake Davis, Amanda Mita, “Digital Exhibitions, Concepts, and Practices,” *Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Technical Leaflet Series*, Number 12 (2018)

Recommended:

Wyman, B., Smith, S., Meyers, D. and Godfrey, M., [“Digital Storytelling in Museums: Observations and Best Practices.”](#) *Curator: The Museum Journal*, 54:4 (October 2011): 461–46

H. Porter Abbott, “Narrative and Life,” in Abbott’s *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative* (second edition, 2008)

Week 6: The TR Collection at the Library of Congress (February 26):

Theodore Roosevelt Collection:

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/theodore-roosevelt-papers/about-this-collection/>

Kathleen Dalton, “Changing Interpretations of Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Era,” in Nichols and Unger, edited, *A Companion to the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (2017)

Week 7: (March 5): No class

Week 8: Connecting Omeka and Wordpress (March 12)

Meet in the Library: class led by Chris Stewart and Whitney Freeman

Week 9: March 19: happy spring break—no class

Part III: Data Analysis with R

Week 10: Introduction to R (March 26)

Michael Freeman and Joel Ross, *Programming Skills for Data Science* (2019), chapter 1, “Setting Up Your Computer”

Recommended: Mathew L. Jockers, *Text Analysis with R for Students of Literature* (2014), chapter 1, “R Basics”

Week 11: Git, Version Control, and R (April 2)

Michael Freeman and Joel Ross, *Programming Skills for Data Science* (2019), chapter 3 (“Version Control with GIT and GitHub”), and chapter 5 (“Introduction to R”)

Week 12: Basic Text Analysis (April 9)

Mathew L. Jockers, *Text Analysis with R for Students of Literature* (2014), chapter 2, “First Foray Into Text Analysis with R”

Google N-gram viewer (<https://books.google.com/ngrams>)

Theodore Roosevelt, *State of the Union Addresses* (2004)

Week 13: Visualizing Data (April 16)

Meet in the Library: class led by Chris Stewart and Whitney Freeman

Week 14: Word Frequency (April 23)

Mathew L. Jockers, *Text Analysis with R for Students of Literature* (2014), chapter 3, “Accessing and Comparing Word Frequency Data”

Recommended: Julia Silge and David Robinson, *Text Mining with R: A Tidy Approach* (2017), chapter 3, “Analyzing Word and Document Frequency: tf-idf”

Week 15: (April 30): Conclusion