HIS 631: Digital History
Fall 2023
Tuesdays, 5:30pm-8:20pm
MHRA 2211

Description: This seminar explores the possibilities and challenges of doing history in digital spaces. Students will gain hands-on training in tools and practices and will design original digital public history projects.

Prerequisites: Restricted to graduate students in the History/Museum Studies or PhD Program, unless by written permission of the instructor.

Instructor Information:
Erin Lawrimore
Professor and University Archivist & Student Engagement Coordinator
Office location: 311 Jackson Library
Email: erlawrim@uncg.edu
Office hours: Contact me to schedule a chat

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Discover, evaluate, and implement a range of digital tools and digital resources to support historical research and scholarship
- Demonstrate knowledge of copyright and intellectual property issues and be able to properly apply these requirements to the creation and use of digital historical materials
- Develop proposals for digital history resources, with detailed plans for data management, project planning and design, grant writing, and collaboration
- Create a digital historical project using primary source materials and research skills
- Express their own research and historical analysis clearly using digital tools and resources

EVALUATION AND GRADING

75% - Final Project
Your final project will require you to build a digital scholarly project based upon your personal research interest. We will take a scaffolded approach to project development, with students:
- Presenting a pitch of their project in class on September 19th
- Submitting a project plan prior to class on October 3rd
- Submitting a final version of their project prior to class on November 28th
- Presenting a final version of their project in our class conference on November 28th

25% - Attendance and Participation
Attendance and active participation in all scheduled class sessions is expected of all students. If you know you will need to miss a class for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible in advance so that we can make a plan for your work.

NOTE: Grades in this course are based on your labor—on the time and intensity that you put into your work. You are not punished for making mistakes as long as you work to learn and improve throughout the term. My hope is that moving from a strict score-based grading system to this type of labor-based grading system will give you the flexibility to explore, experiment, learn, and to take risks without the fear of "failure."

For a student to earn an A grade, I expect assignments to show significant effort, participation to be thoughtful, and engagement to be active. An A grade focuses not just on *what* you do but on the *quality* of what you do.

To receive an A grade, a student must:

- Attend and actively engage in class discussions and classroom learning.
- Demonstrate a willingness to learn and grow.
- Satisfactorily complete all aspects of their final project on schedule.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how to and when to apply digital techniques to historical research and presentation through their final project.

While I don't anticipate that anyone will receive a grade below an A, it is possible if a student fails to meet these expectations. If you face a situation where you are finding it difficult to meet the expectations, *please contact me*! You can email me anytime to schedule a chat. I want you to succeed, and I will work with you to make sure that is something that will happen in this course!

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Readings and other materials to help you prepare for each week can be found in the course Canvas site. You may also need to download and install (free) programs or create (free) accounts in order to participate in the class labs or complete your final project. If you have any concerns with or trouble doing this, please let me know!

SCHEDULE

August 15 - Introduction, syllabus review, tech needs
August 22 – Digital archives and data/project management
August 29 – Digitization, metadata, and copyright
September 5 – Digital exhibits and digital storytelling
September 12 – Oral history
September 19 – Pitch Your Project!
September 26 – Spatial analysis and mapping
October 3 – Visualization, graphic design, and memes
October 10 – FALL BREAK (no class)
October 17 – Crowdsourcing
October 24 – Resources for learning more
October 31 – Games and gaming
November 7 – One-on-one meetings [no formal class meeting – work on your project!]
November 14 – One-on-one meetings [no formal class meeting – work on your project!]
November 21 – THANKSGIVING (no class)
November 28 – Wrap up and share out

NOTES AND DETAILS – GENERAL

Inclusive Learning Environments: In this class, we will work together to develop a learning community that is inclusive and respectful. Our diversity may be reflected by differences in race, culture, age, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, and myriad other social identities and life experiences. The goal of inclusiveness, in a diverse community, encourages and appreciates expressions of different ideas, opinions, and beliefs, so that conversations and interactions that could potentially be divisive turn instead into opportunities for intellectual and personal enrichment.

A dedication to inclusiveness requires respecting what others say, their right to say it, and the thoughtful consideration of others' communication. Both speaking up and listening are valuable tools for furthering thoughtful, enlightening dialogue. Respecting one another's individual differences is critical in transforming a collection of diverse individuals into an inclusive, collaborative and excellent learning community. Our core commitment shapes our core expectation for behavior inside and outside of the classroom.

Academic Integrity Policy: If you are not familiar with the University's academic integrity policy, please see https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0rFGGhJvbDHUExSZmFFaWFmb00/view. The UNCG Academic Integrity System will be triggered by your misuse of materials, plagiarism, or cheating. By registering for this course, you are agreeing to abide by this policy.

Attendance Policy: If you know you will need to miss a class for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible in advance so that we can make a plan for your work. If you have an unexpected absence due to an emergency, I will wait to hear from you before I make any

decisions regarding your work. There are exceptions for religious observance and participation in UNCG athletics and performing arts events:

- **Religious Observance:** The University allows for 2 excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of the student. Students requesting a religious absence must notify the instructor of each absence 14 days in advance of the date of the religious observance. The request must state in writing the nature of the religious observance and the date(s). Student's participation must be confirmed in writing by an official of the religious organization. The instructor will require the student to complete any test or assignment in advance of the originally scheduled date of the test or assignment that is impacted by the absence due to the religious observance.
- **UNCG Athletics & Performing Artists:** It is up to each athlete or artist to identify future missed assignments/exams at the start of the semester and notify me in writing (e-mail) by no later than the second week of the semester. If your UNCG event interferes with an exam/assignment you are required to submit the assignment/take the exam prior to the regularly scheduled date.

Late Work Policy: If you will be missing an assignment deadline for whatever reason (please refer to Attendance Policy above), please contact me as soon as possible to discuss this (as far in advance of the deadline as possible!). I will decide if late work will be accepted and whether it will be penalized based on my conversation with you. But, as always, letting me know in advance of potential conflicts is best.

Accommodation Policy: UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, oars.uncg.edu.

Inclement Weather: In the case of closings or delays due to inclement weather, we will follow the decision made by the University. The University will announce its decisions on the Spartan Alert website (https://spartanalert.uncg.edu/) as well as through the Adverse Weather Line (336-334-4400).

If you are participating in class from an area away from campus and you face inclement weather that inhibits your ability to participate in a synchronous class session (such as a power outage), please let me know as soon as possible.

Student Health and Wellness: Health and well-being impact learning, access, and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug dependency, crime victimization, feeling down, loss of motivation, or death of a loved one. Seeking support confidentially-Student Health Services (SHS), The Counseling Center, and the Campus Violence Response Center are here to help. Learn about the free, confidential mental health and advocacy services available on campus by calling SHS at 336-334-5874 or visiting us on the web: https://shs.uncg.edu/ or calling the CVRC at 336-334-9839 or visiting us on the web at cvrc.uncg.edu or in person at the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive.

For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting https://shs.uncg.edu/srp or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu.

Flexibility: It is the intention of the instructor that this syllabus and course calendar will be followed as outlined; however, as the need arises, there may be adjustments to the syllabus and calendar. In such cases, the instructor will notify the students in class and via email with an updated syllabus and calendar within a reasonable timeframe to allow students to adjust as needed.