

## **HIS 631: Digital History**

Spring 2022

Wednesdays, 5:30pm-8:20pm

MHRA 3208

**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

University Archivist and Associate Professor

Office location: 311 Jackson Library

Email: [erlawrim@uncg.edu](mailto:erlawrim@uncg.edu)

Office hours: Tuesdays via Zoom, 9:30am to 11am (or email if you would like to meet at a more convenient time)

## **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:

- Submitting a project plan prior to class on March 3rd
- Presenting a pitch of their project in class on March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Submitting a final version of their project prior to class on April 27th
- Presenting a final version of their project in our class conference on April 27th

Please note that the final presentations will be open to an audience outside of our class. For this reason, we will be doing these presentations via Zoom.

### **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.

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 or schedule a chat during my office hours. 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**

January 12 - Introduction, Syllabus Review/Creation  
January 19 - Project Planning basics  
January 26 - Research data management/data ethics/copyright  
February 2 - Module 1 [topic TBD by class vote on January 12]  
February 9 - Module 2 [topic TBD by class vote on January 12]  
February 16 - Module 3 [topic TBD by class vote on January 12]  
February 23 - Module 4 [topic TBD by class vote on January 12]  
March 3 - Pitch Your Project  
March 9 (Spring Break)  
March 16 - Work on Project  
March 23 - Work on Project  
March 30 - Work on Project  
April 6 - Work on Project  
April 13 - Work on Project  
April 20 - Work on Project  
April 27 - Class conference/Presentations

## **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 [csrc.uncg.edu](http://csrc.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](mailto:recovery@uncg.edu).

**COVID:** As we return for Spring 2022, all students, faculty, and staff are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19.

These actions include, but are not limited to:

- [Following face-covering guidelines](#)
- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19
- Staying home when ill
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill
- Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19, or being identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive
- Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [COVID-19](#) website

Instructors will have seating charts for their classes. These are important for facilitating contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seats at every class meeting. Students may move their chairs in class to facilitate group work, as long as instructors keep seating chart records. Students should not eat or drink during class time.

A limited number of disposable masks will be available in classrooms for students who have forgotten theirs. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the UNCG Campus Bookstore. Students who do not follow masking requirements will be asked to put on a face covering or leave the classroom to retrieve one and only return when they follow the basic standards of safety and care for the UNCG community. Once students have a face covering, they are permitted to re-enter a class already in progress. Repeated issues may result in conduct action. The course policies regarding attendance and academics remain in effect for partial or full absence from class due to lack of adherence with face covering and other requirements.

For instances where the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) has granted accommodations regarding wearing face coverings, students should contact their instructors to develop appropriate alternatives to class participation and/or activities as needed. Instructors or the student may also contact OARS (336.334.5440) who, in consultation with Student Health services, will review requests for accommodations.

**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.