

HIST 387 HISTORY AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Semester: Fall 2007

Office: LB 1041-11

Instructor: Elena Razlogova

Office Hours: TuTh 12 noon-1 pm by appointment

Classroom: H-609 (lectures); LB 1019 (workshops) Email: erazlogo@alcor.concordia.ca

Time: Tue.-Thu. 1:15-2:30 pm

Telephone: 514-848-2424 ext. 5074

Course website: <http://digitalhistory.concordia.ca/courses/hist387f07/>

Course Overview

In the past decade, new digital media and technologies have begun to transform the ways we experience history. This course offers an introduction to the changes that these new media and technologies are bringing to how historians research, write, present, and teach the past. Students will study the history of the Internet and digital media, and examine historical work—by scholars, teachers, archivists, museum curators, and popular historians—on the web. Historical and critical readings will provide the basis for the hands-on section of the course in which students will develop pilot online history projects.

Texts

Daniel J. Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, And Presenting the Past on the Web* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), [http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/\(DH\)](http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/(DH))

Articles available on course website

The book is available at the University bookstore at the Sir George Williams (downtown) campus.

Assessment

Successful completion of the course depends, most basically, on regular attendance in class, evidence of preparation and application, active participation in class discussions based on close readings of the required texts, and completion of all exercises and assignments on time.

1. Wikipedia Entry Edit - 10%
2. Project Proposal - 20%
3. Review of Another Student's Project Proposal - 10%
4. Project Presentation - 20%
5. Review of Another Student's Project Presentation - 10%
6. Final Project - 30%

Participation

Students will be graded based upon their attendance at lecture and their participation in any discussion provoked by the lecture and/or readings in class. Attendance at lecture is essential and any student missing more than 25% of the course will receive no grade for this portion of the course.

Deadlines

The penalty for late papers and projects will be 5% of the grade per day. No extensions will be granted except in cases of a DOCUMENTED emergency.

Assignments

Wikipedia Entry Edit

Update a historical wikipedia entry of your choice. Choose an entry that needs refinement in terms of style and content, and concerns a topic you already learned about in another class. You need to add at least 3 historical details, with references, and edit the article for style if necessary. Grading will be based on historical significance of the information you added and the clarity of argument in your stylistic edits of the entry.

1. Go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page and find an article on a historical topic of your choice.
2. Create an account (click on “create account” in the top right corner) and sign in.
3. Edit the article and save.
4. Post the link to your entry and your Wikipedia username on the blog.

Wikipedia Entry Edit is **due online by 8 am Tue, Sept. 25.**

Pilot Project

A digital history pilot project, to be presented to the class during the last 4 weeks of classes. You will have access to equipment and a computer lab at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling in LB 1041-1 to help you complete your project. You will also submit 2-paragraph Introductory Statement with your project. Your website should use at least 5 primary sources

Examples of final projects:

Virtual exhibit

Digital memory bank

Online article

Project Proposal

Write and post a 3-paragraph proposal for a digital history project:

1. State the main subject and main historical question of the project, and why this question is important. Explain why you chose a particular genre for the project (virtual exhibit, digital memory bank, online scholarship)
2. Outline sections of your website
3. Cite one or two concrete examples of your primary sources (oral histories, documents, artifacts, photographs, etc.) and explain how you plan to collect more. Explain how you’re going to use your secondary sources: discuss at least two sources on your subject (“Canadian’s view of history” or “the blues”) and two sources on digital history.

Your Proposal is **due online by 8 am Tue, Oct. 16.**

Response to Another Student's Project Proposal

Write and post a 2-paragraph response to a project proposal by another student, making suggestions for improvement.

1. Is the argument clear? If yes, summarize the main point of the project in one sentence. Is the project designed well? Is the chosen genre appropriate for this project? Is its structure clear?
2. Are there enough primary sources? Do they support the main argument? Does the project use secondary sources to make the argument stronger?

Your Response is **due online by 8 am Thu, Oct. 18.**

Project Presentation

Your Project draft and Introductory Statement are due online **no later than 24 hours before your presentation.**

Introductory Statement (2 paragraphs)

1. Explain your main point and why it's important
2. Explain why you chose your primary and secondary sources and how you used them (cite the sources)

Presentation (no more than 10 minutes long)

1. Your project - walk us through website (5 min)
2. Questions/discussion from the audience (5 min)

Use comments given during your presentation to revise your final project

Response to Another Student's Presentation

Write a two-paragraph response to a presentation by another student, making suggestions for improvement.

1. Is the argument clear? If yes, summarize the main point of the project in one sentence. Is the project designed well? Is the chosen genre appropriate for this project? Is its structure clear?
2. Are there enough primary sources? Do they support the main argument? Does the project use secondary sources to make the argument stronger?

Your Response is **due online by 8 am two days after the presentation.**

Final Project

Your Final Project and revised Introductory statement are due online. The due date depends on when you present - see course outline.

Policies and Procedures

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an affront to me and to your peers. Plagiarism is submitting work that is not your own as if it were yours. This includes copying material, even a few sentences, from published or unpublished sources, from the internet, or from another student without citing the source. It also includes presenting another person's ideas or paraphrasing the work of another person without citing the source. Plagiarism also includes handing in bought papers, papers obtained from free essay websites, or having another person write your paper for you. Anyone suspected of copying other people's work without clear acknowledgement, or of any comparable act, will be reported to the Faculty of Arts and Science for plagiarism.

Syllabus: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus during the year if/as necessary. Please check the online syllabus before every class.

Schedule

Most assigned readings are from the web. You are expected to print out the item so that you will have it with you in class.

Week I: Digital History and “New Media”?

Sept. 4. Course Introduction

Sept. 6. *Medieval Help Desk*, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQHx-SjgQvQ>
 “Introduction,” *DH*, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/introduction/>

Week II: Varieties of Digital History

Sept. 11. “Exploring the History Web,” *DH*, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/exploring/>

Sept. 13. “Getting Started,” *DH*, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/starting/>

Week III: Digital History and Public Participation

Sept. 18. John Udell, *Heavy Metal Umlaut: The Movie*, <http://weblog.infoworld.com/udell/gems/umlaut.html>
 Roy Rosenzweig, “Can History Be Open Source?: Wikipedia and the Future of the Past,” *Journal of American History* 93 (June 2006), 117-146, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/resources/essays/d/42>

Sept. 20. Workshop: Dreamweaver.

Week IV: Online Collecting and Digital Memory Banks

Sept. 25. Hurricane Digital Memory Bank, <http://www.hurricanearchive.org/>
 “Collecting History Online,” *DH*, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/collecting/>

Wikipedia Entry Edit due.

Sept. 27. Workshop. Online Surveys

Week V: Digital Images and Evidence

Oct. 2. Doctored Oswald Photo
 “Becoming Digital,” *DH*, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/digitizing/>

Oct. 4. Workshop. Photoshop.

Week VI: Digital Historical Narratives

Oct. 9. *The Garden of Forking Paths*, <http://www.geocities.com/papanagnou/>

Oct. 11. Workshop: OCR.

Week VII: Designing Digital History

Oct. 16. *CSS Zen Garden*, <http://csszengarden.com/>
 “Designing for the History Web,” *DH*, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/designing/>

Project Proposals due.

Oct. 18. Workshop: Basic CSS.

Week VIII: Digital Archives

Oct. 23. *American Memory*, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>
 “Preserving Digital History,” *DH*, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/preserving/>

Oct. 25. Workshop. Video Editing.

Week IX: History and Copyright

Oct. 30. “Owning the Past?” *DH*, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/copyright/>

Nov. 1. No Class: Walk-In Technical Support Office Hours in LB 1041-1

Week X: Project Presentations

Nov. 6. Final Projects Due Mon, Nov. 20

Nov. 8. Final Projects Due Thu, Nov. 22

Week XI: Project Presentations

Nov. 13. Final Projects Due Mon, Nov. 20

Nov. 15. Final Projects Due Thu, Nov. 22

Week XII: Project Presentations

Nov. 20. Final Projects Due Mon, Nov. 27

Nov. 22. Final Projects Due Thu, Nov. 29

Week XIII: Project Presentations

Nov. 27. Final Projects Due Mon, Dec. 3

Nov. 29. No Class