Syllabus G57.2033 Fall 2011

Cathy Moran Hajo, 212-998-8666 cathy.hajo@nyu.edu Room 405 King Juan Carlos Building.

Class meets on Thursdays, 4:55-7:35 in Room 607 of King Juan Carlos Building.

Historians who work with the public have a particular need to be comfortable with digital tools. The course offers students a basic grounding in the technological skills needed to conduct online historical research and to present the results of their research online. It also introduces students to issues in digital history such as copyright, intellectual property, information abundance, and how the Web changes the relationship between historians and their audience.

Course Aims:

* Learn research skills appropriate and necessary for conducting research in the digital age
* Learn to write the results of historical research for a general audience
* Practice collaborative writing
* Learn to build digital maps and timelines
* Contribute materials to a digital archive on Greenwich Village history
* Create a digital exhibit

Syllabus (PDF)

For classes marked with a LAB, please bring your laptop computer if you have one.

Required Book (much less expensive when bought online than through the Bookstore).


New Recommended Book for background:


Sept 8- Week 1: Course Introduction / Greenwich Village History

Special Guest: Sheryl Woodruff, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

We will discuss the course goals, assignments, the use of the Wikidot site and other software that will be used in the course, and introduce Greenwich Village history.

TAKE SURVEY

LAB: Using WordPress; joining the blog.

Sept. 15-Week 2: What is Digital History?

How does the medium (the World Wide Web) change the practice of doing history? Is Digital History different from History?

Readings:
LAB: Using archival search databases, internet searches, and local repositories to locate items.

Assignments Due: Post your biographical blog entry. Post the general topic you have selected for your digital archive on your student wiki page.

Sept. 22-Week 3 - Digitization and Copyright

Meet at Bobst Image Lab, 2nd floor of Bobst Library. Then return to classroom.

We will discuss preservation v. access scanning, how to obtain good images and get the rights to use them.

Readings:

- Roy Rosenzweig, ”Should Historical Scholarship Be Free?,” AHA Perspectives (2005).

Further Reading on Copyright (not required)

- Patricia Aufderheide and Peter Jaszi, Reclaiming Fair Use: How to Put Balance Back in Copyright (Chicago: 2011).
- Lawrence Lessig, “Keynote speech at EDUCAUSE” (2009), speech begins at about minute 27. It lasts about an hour and 15 minutes.

Sept. 29-Week 4: Researching History

How does the Web impact the way that we do historical research? How does it change the way that we think about sources?

Readings:


TAKE SURVEY BEFORE CLASS

Assignments Due: Post the general topic of your web exhibit to your student wiki page.

Recommended

This series, published by the American Association of State and Local History, delves more deeply into some topics. Bobst has most of these:

Oct. 6-Week 5: Metadata and Tagging

Readings:

- Diane Hillmann, Using Dublin Core.

Lab: Mounting Items in Omeka, Using Dublin Core, and Tagging

Assignments Due: First of three extended blog entry due as well as two comments on other students postings. Post two items to the digital archive with metadata. Wait for feedback before adding more items.

Oct. 13-Week 6: Writing History for the Web

Writing history for a general audience without sacrificing academic rigor takes time and practice.

Readings:

- Jane Kamensky, Novelties: A Historian's Field Notes from Fiction, Historically Speaking, April 2011
- Bland Whitely, Standards of Citations and the Internet, Historical Society blog, May 9, 2011.

Assignments Due: Post at least eight additional items with metadata to the digital archive for a total of at least ten.

Oct. 20-Week 7: No class.

I will be at the Association for Documentary Editing meeting in Salt Lake City.

Assignments Due: All digital archive items (20 minimum) must be mounted with full metadata. Each item should have an entry in the permissions log (permissions do not have to be cleared yet.)

Oct. 27-Week 8: Building Exhibits Using Omeka

Readings:

- Look at a few Omeka-driven exhibits at the Omeka Showcase of Exhibits
Lab: Omeka exhibits

**Assignments Due:** Post your collaborative writing first draft essay, linked to your student page. Review and correct metadata for your digital archive items.

Nov. 3-Week 9: A Sense of Time

Time is a popular organizing principle for historical presentations. Creating timelines and periodization offer powerful ways to organize and relate historical facts and artifacts.

**Readings:**


**Assignments Due:** Second extended blog entry and two comments. Post your first edit on the collaborative writing essay you were assigned.

Special Presenter: Deena Engel

Lab: TBA

Nov. 10-Week 10: A Sense of Place

How does location help you organize your historical presentations? We will explore place-centered historical sites and pinning our digital items to maps.

**Readings:**


Special Presenter: Deena Engel

Lab: Customizing Omeka Exhibit themes

**Assignments Due:** Post your links and image edit on the collaborative writing essay you were assigned. Add your timeline entries. Create sections and page outline for your web exhibit.

Nov. 17-Week 11: Introduction to HTML and Websites

If you are already familiar with the basics, press on to the intermediate and advanced. Go as far as you can. When working on these tutorials, use an HTML editor.

**Readings:**

- HTML Tutorial for Beginners [http://www.htmldog.com/guides/htmlbeginner/]
- CSS Tutorial for Beginners [http://www.htmldog.com/guides/cssbeginner/]
Lab: Basic webpage creation, file management.

Assignments Due: Post your style edit on the collaborative writing essay you were assigned. Post your Google map and link to it from your student wiki page.

Nov. 24-Week 12: No Class - Enjoy Thanksgiving!

Work on your web exhibit over the break, in between football and leftovers.

Assignments Due: Post your fact-check of your original essay and comment on the process. Post a paragraph outlining your plans for customizing your exhibit on your student wiki page.

Dec. 1-Week 13: Exhibit Workshop

Bring any problems you are having with your exhibits, whether with the research, copyright, Omeka modification, or on another topic. Present issues and questions in informal way.

Readings:
- Omeka Forums [http://omeka.org/forums]

Lab: Troubleshooting

Assignments Due: Permissions for all items used in digital archive must be cleared (and entered in permissions spreadsheet) and items set to public access.

Dec. 8-Week 14: Social Media

How does the role of the professional historian or archivist change in a Web 2.0 world?

Readings:
- Kate Theimer, Chapter 1, "Web 2.0 Basics" in Web 2.0 Tools and Strategies for Archives and Local History Collections (2010).

Lab: Omeka and HTML Troubleshooting

Dec. 15-Week 15: Presentation of Exhibits

Students will give a five minute presentation on their exhibit.

Assignments Due: Your web exhibit is due; it should be set to "public" so that it appears on the GVH digital archive site. Third extended blog entry and two comments are due.