

History 411/511: The Digital Humanities  
University of Montevallo  
Dr. John R. Bawden  
Fall 2017

**Meets:** Thursday 5-730 UMOM 220

**Course Credit:** 3 hours

**Pre-requisites:** History 101 & 102

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**Office Hours:** MW 9-1, TR, 4-5 UM on Main 305 (or by appointment)

### Course Overview

Computers and the worldwide web have transformed humanities research, analysis, and presentation. Scholars from around the world communicate electronically. Rare manuscripts, once inaccessible, are available to anyone with an internet connection. Google's vast library of digitized books is searchable by word, phrase, topic, and within specified time periods. Humanities scholars engage in large-scale collaborative projects, encode documents, and tell stories using interactive, data-rich maps. Students in this course will contemplate the meaning of these trends, conduct research, and generate content for several online projects.

### Course Objectives

1. Introduce students to the history of digital technology and its impact on historical practice.
2. Familiarize students with the challenges and possibilities of the new media for humanities scholarship.
3. Introduce students to web technologies and applications used in the digital humanities.
4. Create and contribute to digital history projects.

### Digital Projects

Activity 1: Examine crowd-sourced history projects (Operation War Diary) <https://www.operationwardiary.org/> and (Clio) <https://www.theclio.com/> and the inner workings of Wikipedia. Become a contributor to the world's largest and jointly written online encyclopedia.

Activity 2: Geographer Jo McGinnis will visit our classroom and speak about Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and digital project 2. For this assignment, students will tell a story making use of either <http://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/> or <https://timeline.knightlab.com/>.

Activity 3: Consider the implications of virtual reality (VR) --<https://vr.google.com/earth/>-- and augmented reality (AR) for history education. Use 360 cameras, in collaboration with digital media specialist, Mr. Michael Price, for a project related to historic landmarks in the Montevallo area.

Activity 4: Scan and create metadata for materials from the university's Annie Crawford Milner Archives. Create a digital exhibit from these materials for the class Omeka website: <http://carmichaeldigitalprojects.org/archivingmontevallo/>.

### Course Assessment

Activity 1: 15%

Activity 2: 20%

Activity 3: 15%

Activity 4: 20%

Participation: 30%

A: 100-90% B: 89-80% C: 79-70% D: 69-60% F: 59-0%

### Attendance and Participation

Good participation means making comments, asking questions, and working well in your assigned groups. You will come to class having carefully reviewed the assigned articles or websites. Be prepared for my questions or the questions of your classmates. Your participation grade is a composite of your attendance and the quality of your participation on those days. You will receive a "zero" for participation if you miss more than three class sessions.

### **Fishbowl Discussion**

We will “Fishbowl” some of the reading material. On these days, you will prepare two written questions about each of the assigned readings. Three students, chosen at random, will form a “panel” responsible for answering the classroom’s questions.

### **Withdrawal Deadline**

The last day for students to withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” is **Tuesday, October 24.**

### **Graduate Level**

Students taking History 511 course should speak with me about an additional assignment or activity that will be assessed along with all other requirements that appear in the syllabus.

### **University of Montevallo Forum**

ForUM e-mail is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and administrators at the University of Montevallo – and may be THE official means of communication between you and your instructors. You may receive a variety of very important ForUM e-mail messages from various offices on campus for which some timely response will be required. The official email system for students is identified by [userid@forum.montevallo.edu](mailto:userid@forum.montevallo.edu) and can be accessed via the For UM link on the university home page, [www.montevallo.edu](http://www.montevallo.edu).

### **Disability Policy**

The University of Montevallo provides equal opportunity to qualified students. If you have a disability (medical, physical, learning, psychological, etc.) and wish to request disability-related accommodations to complete course requirements, contact Disability Support Services (located in Main Hall, rear entrance; 665-6250). Course requirements cannot be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided based on disability documentation and course objectives. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

To claim as one’s own the ideas or words of another is plagiarism. Consult with me if you are unsure about how to cite sources. An assignment on which plagiarism or cheating has occurred will receive no credit, i.e. a “zero,” and an Academic Dishonesty Incident Form concerning the incident will be kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

### **Course Schedule**

#### WEEK 1 – 8/24

Introductions

What is digital history?

Read: Cohen and Rosenzweig, “The Promise and Perils of Digital History,”

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/introduction/>

Visit: [www.goo.gl/wPbWA1](http://www.goo.gl/wPbWA1) (The Atlantic Slave Trade)

Visit: <https://goo.gl/EPfjGa> (De Soto in the Americas)

Fishbowl Discussion

#### WEEK 2 – 8/31

Survey of digital tools

The history of digital history

Read: Cohen and Rosenzweig, “Exploring the History of the Web,”

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/exploring/index.php>

Visit: <http://libguides.utoledo.edu/digitalhumanities/DHtools>

Fishbowl Discussion

### WEEK 3 – 9/7

Open source history, interactive possibilities

Deconstructing Wikipedia

Read: Cohen and Rosenzweig, “Getting Started,” <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/starting/>

Visit: <http://www.operationwardiary.org/>

Visit: <https://www.theclio.com/>

Fishbowl Discussion

### WEEK 4 – 9/14

Technical skills needed for basic and advanced practice

Big data, data mining, going meta with metadata

Read: <https://doinghistoryinpublic.org/2014/07/03/why-historians-should-learn-how-to-code/>

Read: <https://www.wired.com/insights/2015/02/should-we-really-try-to-teach-everyone-to-code/>

#### **Digital project #1 due**

Discuss: Why would a historian learn to code?

### WEEK 5 - 9/21

Historical GIS (geographic information systems)

New ways of mapping the past and present

Geographer Jo McGinnis

Visit: <https://goo.gl/C1gGY9>

Read: Anne Kelly Knowles, “GIS and History” [www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/CDH/knowles.pdf](http://www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/CDH/knowles.pdf)

### WEEK 6 – 9/28

Visualizing text, data mining

Architecture and aesthetics of digital history

Evaluating history websites

Visit: <https://www.siteinspire.com/websites?categories=168>

Visit: <http://carmichaeldigitalprojects.org/archivingmontevallo/>

### WEEK 7 – 10/5

Who owns the past?

Intellectual property

Read: <http://goo.gl/mLkYRW>

Read: <http://chronicle.com/article/Pushing-Back-Against-Legal/127690/>

Fishbowl Discussion

### WEEK 8 – 10/12

Students present Timelines or Storymaps

#### **Digital project #2 due**

### WEEK 9 – 10/19

Meet with Mr. Michael Price in Carmichael Library digital media lab, first floor

Virtual Reality and 360 Cameras

Digitizing document and editing software

### WEEK 10 – 10/26

Meet with Mr. Carey Heatherly in front of the Annie Crawford Milner Archive, basement level

Consult the presidential papers

Discuss activity #4 and the class digital exhibit

### Week 11 – 11/2

Meet in Carmichael Library

Digital media lab

Edit 360 camera projects

WEEK 12 – 11/9

“Archiving Montevallo” groups to meet

Finding an audience and marketing the product

Preserving digital history and sources born digital

Read: <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2015/05/28/preserving-the-born-digital-record/>

Visit: <http://historynewsnetwork.org/>

**Activity #3 due**

WEEK 13 – 11/16

Meet in front of the Anna Crawford Milner Archive, basement level

Research day

WEEK 14 – 11/23

THANKSGIVING

WEEK 15 – 11/30

Digital humanities critique

Read: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital\\_humanities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_humanities)

Discussion

**Digital project #4 due**

NO FINAL EXAM