

The University of Western Ontario | Department of History & Program in Digital Humanities | Fall 2015---16

## **History 2816A / Digital Humanities 2130A Introduction to Digital History**

Fall Term

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30---5:30 pm, Lawson Hall 2270C

William J. Turkel, Professor

Department of History

Office: Lawson Hall 2267

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Office hours for this course: Tuesdays, 2:30---3:30 pm

### **Course website:**

<http://williamjturkel.net/teaching/history---2816a--introduction---to---digital---history---fall---2015/>

### **Course Description**

Digital History refers to the use of computers, computer programs, digital media and other electronic technologies to teach, communicate, simulate, preserve, access, analyze, research, present and publish interpretations of the past. In this course you will learn how historical content is produced, presented and published in digital form; how to find and evaluate digital primary and secondary sources; and how to use computational techniques to work with digital resources. No programming experience or previous background in the subject area is required.

### **Course Objectives**

- Discover the enormous range of historical sources, both primary and secondary, that are available online in digital form
- Learn to utilize sources that are 'born---digital'
- Apply computational tools to the scholarly activities of **discovering, annotating, comparing, referring, sampling, illustrating** and **representing** (Unsworth)
- Be able to critically engage with the emerging methods of digital history and digital humanities
- Evaluate and determine strategies for historical practice with digital sources and tools

## In---class Activities, Evaluation and Assignments

There are two 2---hour sessions per week. For the first hour each day, I will explain and demonstrate the use of particular computational methods or tools on a range of digital historical sources. For the second hour, you will practice using the tool or method in class and I will go around and answer questions and provide assistance. We will follow the in---class work with a group discussion. At the end of each class you will upload a copy of your day's notebook to the OWL Site.

In---class hands---on work	30%
Short assignments	30%
Final research project	40%

The short assignments (2---5 pages each) will test your understanding of the course material and your ability to apply the techniques that you have learned. In the final research project you will be asked to use the computational analysis of sources to support or question historical claims made in the scholarly literature on a particular topic. You will also be asked to reflect on the aspects of the process that you felt were successful or not, about other ways that the technology might be used to assist the historian in his or her work, and things that historians should be cautious or critically aware of when using similar tools. More information about the assignments and ways to approach them will be discussed in class.

### OWL Site

The OWL Site for the course will only be used to submit coursework and assignments. All other course material will be available on the course webpage.

### Required Software and Textbook

To get the most out of this class, you will need a Windows, Mac or Linux laptop, which you should bring to every class.

You will also need a **desktop** license for Wolfram Research's *Mathematica* software. (Don't let the name scare you, you won't need any particular experience with mathematics to do well in this course).

Although *Mathematica* is a commercial product, Wolfram Research, the company that makes it, has provided us with free copies to use in this class. If you are registered in the course, I will send your email address to the Campus Computer Store, where you will be able to pick up a *Mathematica* license to use for the term.

There is one required textbook, which is available free of charge. Download the *Mathematica* notebook version to use for this course.

Turkel, William J. *Digital Research Methods with Mathematica*. 2015.  
<http://williamjturkel.net/digital---research---methods---with---mathematica/>

### **Schedule**

- **Th Sep 10.** Introduction  
Readings. Andrews and Burke, "[What Does it Mean to Think Historically?](#)"
- **Tu Sep 15.** Word frequency  
Readings. Chapter 01: Text Analysis, Basic Examples
- **Th Sep 17.** Text search  
Readings. Chapter 01: Text Analysis, Generalizing the Examples
- **Tu Sep 22.** N---gram frequency  
Readings. Chapter 01: Text Analysis, Programming with *Mathematica*
- **Th Sep 24.** Keyword in context  
Readings. Chapter 02: Pattern Matching, Basic Examples
- **Tu Sep 29.** Pattern matching  
Readings. Chapter 02: Pattern Matching, Generalizing the Examples
- **Th Oct 01.** Capitalized phrases  
Readings. Chapter 02: Pattern Matching, Programming with *Mathematica*  
SHORT ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE.
- **Tu Oct 06.** Collocations  
Readings. Chapter 03: Who and What, Basic Examples
- **Th Oct 08.** Associations  
Readings. Chapter 03: Who and What, Generalizing the Examples
- **Tu Oct 13.** Named entities  
Readings. Chapter 03: Who and What, Programming with *Mathematica*  
SHORT ASSIGNMENT 1 ZERO DATE.
- **Th Oct 15.** Timelines  
Readings. Chapter 04: When and Where, Basic Examples
- **Tu Oct 20.** Maps  
Readings. Chapter 04: When and Where, Generalizing the Examples

- **Th Oct 22.** Batch downloading  
SHORT ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE.
  - **Tu Oct 27.** Corpus search  
Readings. Chapter 04: When and Where, Programming with *Mathematica*
  - **Th Oct 29.** NO CLASS – FALL STUDY BREAK
  - **Tu Nov 03.** Document vector model  
Readings. Chapter 05: Information Retrieval, Basic Examples  
SHORT ASSIGNMENT 2 ZERO DATE.
  - **Th Nov 05.** TF---IDF  
Readings. Chapter 05: Information Retrieval, Generalizing the Examples  
DROP DATE.
  - **Tu Nov 10.** RSS feeds  
Readings. Chapter 06: Internet Sources, Basic Examples
  - **Th Nov 12.** Scraping HTML  
Readings. Chapter 06: Internet Sources, Generalizing the Examples  
SHORT ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE.
  - **Tu Nov 17.** Page images and OCR  
Readings. Chapter 07: Image Processing, Basic Examples
  - **Th Nov 19.** Extracting still images
  - **Tu Nov 24.** Face detection and image identification  
SHORT ASSIGNMENT 3 ZERO DATE.
  - **Th Nov 26.** Image classification
  - **Tu Dec 01.** Photogrammetry and georectification
  - **Th Dec 03.** Library APIs
  - **Tu Dec 08.** Network of identities
- FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE

## **Late Work and Attendance**

Participation in in---class activities is a key component of this class. I expect you to attend every class and participate in the day's activities.

In general, I don't like to penalize late work. Each assignment will have a suggested due date and, a few weeks later, a zero date. If you hand in your assignment before the zero date, you will receive full credit for your work. After the zero date, it will be worth nothing.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Dean's office as soon as possible and contact me immediately.

Regarding absence for medical illness, see the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf)

## **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## **Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### **Prerequisites and Antirequisites:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

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### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and

indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

## **Medical Issues:**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](mailto:MentalHealth@Western), <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Morgan Sheriff, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84999 or [msherif5@uwo.ca](mailto:msherif5@uwo.ca)