

EUH-AMH-WOH 3931 – Digital Public History

Spring 2025
Keene-Flint Hall 111
MWF, 12:50-1:40 PM

Instructor: Professor Christopher Goodwin
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Office Hours: In-person: Mondays, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM and 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM
Zoom: By appointment

Grading: Letter, 3 credit hours

I. Course Description

People study the past by asking questions of surviving records: the documentary sources from which we build our understandings of what was and what happened. This course introduces students to the evolving craft of engaging with and presenting these sources in the digital age using the tools of digital public history. In particular, we will focus on how the traditional practice of documentary



publishing is transforming in our era of digital communication. What sort of historical record is being built today using information technologies and social media? How can we help make this new historical record more accessible and useful to anyone interested in the past?

This course combines theory and practice. In the first part of the course, we will cover basic methodological questions surrounding digital public history and documentary publishing. In the second part, we will collaborate to create new prototype digital projects that present historical sources in innovative ways, tailored to the needs of the public.

The prototype digital editions we will build in this course are your main assignment for the course. But they are also an opportunity to become published authors in the digital, peer-reviewed journal [SourceLab](#). You and your fellow co-authors are encouraged to seek publication in our journal should you wish. I'll be talking more about this possibility as the term goes on. It's a great way to build your resume, get a first publication, and allow others to benefit from your research.

II. Course Goals

By the end of the course, students will have:

- Studied foundational concepts in digital public history
- Studied foundational concepts in documentary editing, and considered how they are developing in the digital age
- Learned how to describe, research, and contextualize primary historical sources
- Developed digital publishing skills in content development, project management, and client relations
- Produced a prototype digital documentary edition, which they can seek to publish.

III. Course Requirements

Course Readings

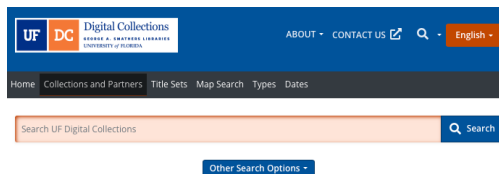
- All course readings will be made available on the course website or through links below in the course schedule.

Technology

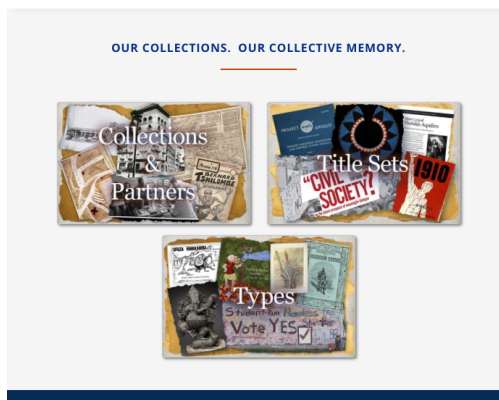
A laptop or desktop computer of nearly any age, make, or model is necessary for this course.

Attendance

Attendance is a crucial component of this course. Not only does is attendance necessary for our productive classroom discussions, but the second portion of the course requires face-to-face interactions, communications, and work with your team members. Each unexcused absence will



lower your grade as a proportion of the attendance grade. A fourth unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by 1 letter grade. A sixth unexcused absence results in failure of the course.



According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

IV. Assignments and Grading

<i>Assignments and Weighting</i>		<i>Grading Scale</i>	
Attendance and Participation	15%	93-100	A
Short Paper Assignment 1	10%	90-92	A-
Short Paper Assignment 2	10%	87-89	B+
Contextual Research Essay	20%	83-86	B
Prototype Critique	10%	80-82	B-
Final Project	35%	77-79	C+
• Draft Mission Statement		73-76	C
• Client Interview and Notes		70-72	C-
• Metadata Worksheet		67-69	D+
• Revised Mission Statement and Work Plan		63-66	D
• Final Project Draft		60-62	D-
• Final Prototype		59 and below	F

V. Course Schedule

Unit One: History and Its Sources, Yesterday and Today	
Monday 01/13/2025	Mutual Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus distributed and discussed
Wednesday 01/15/2025	About the Course: The Syllabus, Digital Documentary Publishing (aka 'Editing'), and SourceLab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baraniuk, "What Will Today's Data tell Future Historians?" • Randolph, "SourceLab: An Idea" • Marcotte and Villanueva, "Red Cross Works on Mutilés (1918)." • Reference to Consult: The SourceLab Handbook (this is a link to have handy going forward; no specific reading for today).
Friday 01/17/2025	History and Sources: Classical Concepts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becker, "Everyman His Own Historian" • Howell and Prevenier, <i>From Reliable Sources</i> (excerpt).
Monday 01/20/2025	No Class
Wednesday 01/22/2025	History, its Sources, and Power: A Modern Critique <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trouillot, <i>Silencing the Past</i> (excerpts). • Hand Out First Short Paper Assignment
Friday 01/24/2025	Case Study: The Day the Music Burned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosen, "The Day the Music Burned"
Monday 01/27/2025	Writing Workshop: Revising for Style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booth, <i>The Craft of Research</i>, Chap. 17 (excerpts).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Version of First Short Paper Assignment due.
Wednesday 01/29/2025	<p>The New Historical Record, Take One: Historians and the Rise of the Internet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosenzweig, “Scarcity or Abundance?” • McLemee, “It Seemed Like a Good Idea”
Friday 01/31/2025	<p>Case Study: ‘Documenting the Now’: Creating and Preserving Records in an Age of Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peet, “DocNow” • Website, “Documenting the Now” (read around the website to get a sense of where this initiative has gone since its 2016 inception) • Watch: “DocNow V1.0 User Demonstration” • Final Submission of First Short Paper Assignment.
Unit Two: Publishing the Past in the Digital Age: An Introduction to Digital Documentary Editing	
Monday 02/03/2025	<p>Preserving and Publishing the Past Before the Internet: ‘Archives’ and ‘Editions’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxford English Dictionary, “edition, n.” • Stark-Gendrano, “Scholarly Edition” • Hand Out Second Short Paper Assignment • Copies of print editions shared.
Wednesday 02/05/2025	<p>Publishing Documents: Goals and Standards in Documentary Editing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burg and Stevens, “Introduction” • Association for Documentary Editing, “Minimum Standards for Electronic Editions.”
Friday 02/07/2025	<p>Workshop: Discussing Digital Documentary Editions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will find a special file on the course site containing links to a few new digital editions of historical sources. Examine these resources, as described in the Second Paper Assignment.
Monday 02/10/2025	<p>Introduction to the Final Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Project Guidelines Distributed. • Final Project Options Introduced.
Wednesday 02/12/2025	<p>Discussing the Projects and Creating the Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Project Descriptions (read this document). • By Tuesday evening (02/11) send me a list of your top three options for the final project, via e-mail.
Friday 02/14/2025	<p>Getting to Know Your Team and Familiarizing Yourself with Your Project</p>
Monday 02/17/2025	<p>No Class – Work on your second short paper assignment</p>
Wednesday 02/19/2025	<p>Getting to Know our Editorial Template and Publishing Platform on Scalar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Short Paper Assignment Due. • Watch Scalar Overview

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SourceLab Handbook, Section 2.1 (‘Content Guidelines’) • Scalar, “Welcome, Getting Started, Quick Start” • Review: Edition Template. • We will develop a ‘shell’ for your prototype together in class. Please make sure your group has at least one shareable laptop or tablet.
Unit Three: Studying Your Source and Imagining Its Place in History	
Friday 02/21/2025	<p>Creating Context: Understanding Your Source and Imagining its Biography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gosden and Marshall, “The Cultural Biography of Objects” • Hand Out Contextual Research Paper Assignment Distributed
Monday 02/24/2025	<p>Preparing for Client Interviews and Developing Mission Statements and Work Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reading; critical, in-class group work. Come to class! • Topics for Contextual Research Essays determined (in consultation with group). • FP Assignment 1 (‘FP 1¹): Draft Mission Statement due (see Final Project Guidelines)
Wednesday 02/26/2025	<p>Conducting Library Research: Databases and Print Collections</p>
Friday 02/28/2025	<p>Representing Text: Principles of Transcription</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stevens and Burg, “General Principles of Transcription” • Group Work: Transcribing Historical Sources
Monday 03/03/2025	<p>Client Interview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be using this time to meet either in-person or by Zoom with clients. • You should throughout this period be gathering information for your Contextual Research Essays.
Wednesday 03/05/2025	<p>Annotating Your Source: Principles of Annotation / Technological Possibilities in Scalar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stevens and Burg, “Principles of Annotation” • Scalar User’s Guide: Annotations • FP 2: Notes on Client Interviews due
Friday 03/07/2025	<p>Sharing Your Research So Far</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Bibliographies and Conclusions due for Contextual Research Essay (see assignment). • You’ll discuss your findings in your project teams, identifying where you need to build your research in the time remaining (before the essay is due).
Unit Four: Creating Your Prototype Edition	
Monday 03/10/2025	<p>Working with Media and Content in Scalar</p>

¹ Here and forward, assignments that are a part of the Final Project will be listed as FP 1, FP 2, etc. To find instructions for these assignments, please consult the Final Project guidelines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalar User's Guide, sections "Working with Media" and "Working with Content." • Scalar Cheat Sheet. • Please make sure your group has at least one shareable laptop. We will try to upload a media file of your source, if one exists.
Wednesday 03/12/2025	<p>Documenting Your Source: Gathering Metadata for Your Edition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pomerantz, Metadata (Introduction) • SourceLab Handbook, Sections 3.2-3.4 (Metadata Guidelines) • SourceLab Metadata Worksheet. • FP 3: Metadata Due
Friday 03/14/2025	<p>No Class - Writing and Group Consultation Day - Your Contextual Research Essays are due soon. Please take this day to work on this assignment, adding to your research as necessary.</p>
Monday 03/17/2025	<p>No Class</p>
Wednesday 03/19/2025	<p>No Class</p>
Friday 03/21/2025	<p>No Class</p>
Monday 03/24/2025	<p>Revising Your Mission Statement and Creating a Work Plan for the Final Project Draft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextual Research Essays due. • FP 4: Revised Mission Statement and Work Plan discussed. • FP 5: Final Project Draft discussed.
Wednesday 03/26/2025	<p>Writing Your Edition, Part I: Opener, Introduction, Abstract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SourceLab Handbook, Section 2.1 Content Guidelines. • Discussion of procedures in creating 'paper draft' of edition.
Friday 03/28/2025	<p>Writing Your Edition, Part II: 'About this Source' and 'About this Edition'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SourceLab Handbook, Section 2.1 Content Guidelines. • FP 4: Revised Mission Statement and Work Plan due.
Monday 03/31/2025	<p>Group Work: Outlining Textual Sections and Planning Source Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booth, "Storyboarding" • In class, we will discuss how you are presenting your source within the edition. Please experiment with presentation options (different views using the menus in Scalar) before you come, so that we can select among a few options.
Wednesday 04/02/2025	<p>Disability Accessibility and Project Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Harvard's Guide to Alt-Text
Friday 04/04/2025	<p>Metadata, Part II: Reviewing Your Data and How to Enter It in Your Edition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See FP 3 for more details. Please make sure that at least one person in your group brings a laptop or tablet for our work.
Monday	<p>Citations and Footnotes</p>

04/07/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a general reference, again, citations and footnotes should be written following <u>The Chicago Manual of Style</u>. We will cover how to enter footnotes into your Paper Drafts in class.
Wednesday 04/09/2025	<p>Final Group Work Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please come so you can discuss with your group how to handle all remaining steps for the creation of your Final Project drafts.
Friday 04/11/2025	No Class - Research and Writing Day - This is a free workday, for your group to use as you see fit
Monday 04/14/2025	<p>Prototype Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Final Project Guidelines. Prototype Critiques Due Prototype Drafts Due 2 Days Before Presentation
Wednesday 04/16/2025	<p>Prototype Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Final Project Guidelines. Prototype Critiques Due Prototype Drafts Due 2 Days Before Presentation
Friday 04/18/2025	<p>Prototype Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Final Project Guidelines. Prototype Critiques Due Prototype Drafts Due 2 Days Before Presentation
Monday 04/21/2025	<p>Prototype Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Final Project Guidelines. Prototype Critiques Due Prototype Drafts Due 2 Days Before Presentation
Wednesday 04/23/2025	<p>Last Day of Class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of publication options for your work, including the peer-reviewed series <i>SourceLab</i>. Questions about FP 6: Final Prototype.
Tuesday 04/29/2025	Submission of FP 6: Final Prototype Due by 12:00 PM (Noon)

VI. Other Information

Online Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under



GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with University policy. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism, and what the university policies are. If you have doubts, we would be happy to discuss with you. Please refer to the current Undergraduate Catalog for more information on the Student Honor code (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>). If you have questions about these policies, I would be happy to discuss them with you.