

Site: **Creating Digital History** at <http://creatingdigitalhistory.wikidot.com>  
Source page: **Creating Digital History G57.2033 Fall 2010** at  
<http://creatingdigitalhistory.wikidot.com/syllabus>

# Creating Digital History G57.2033 Fall 2010

---

Cathy Moran Hajo, 212-998-8666 [cathy.hajo@nyu.edu](mailto:cathy.hajo@nyu.edu) Room 501 King Juan Carlos Building  
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 the basics of HTML and CSS
- \* Help build a digital archive around the theme of Greenwich Village history
- \* Create a digital exhibit

## SYLLABUS

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

### SEPT 9- WEEK 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION

*We will discuss the course goals, assignments, the use of the Wikidot site and other software that will be used in the course, and have an introduction to Greenwich Village history. Special Guest Speaker: Sheryl Woodruff, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.*

### LAB: USING THE WIKI

---

### SEPT. 16-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:

- Daniel J. Cohen, Michael Frisch, Patrick Gallagher, Steven Mintz, Kirsten Sword, Amy Murrell Taylor, William G. Thomas, III, William J. Turkel, "The Promise of Digital History," *Journal of American History* 95:2 2008
- Nicholas Carr, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" *The Atlantic*, July 2008
- Tom Scheinfeldt "Where's the Beef? Does Digital Humanities Have to Answer Questions?" *Found History* [blog], May 10, 2010.

- Orville Vernon Burton, "Ageless Digital History," *Social Science Computer Review*, Vol. 23 No. 2, Summer 2005 206-220

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 1-2: How the Web Works and Publishing Web Content.

#### LAB: SETTING UP WEB SERVERS AND CHOOSING AN HTML EDITOR

---

### SEPT. 23 - WEEK 3 - NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY SITE VISIT

- Read a book on Greenwich Village History from this [bibliography](#) (or select your own).

**Class will meet at the NYPL Manuscripts Reading Room, at 5:40 pm. Enter the Library on the 42nd Street entrance.** [Map/Directions](#)

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 3-4: Understanding HTML and XHTML and Understanding CSS
- 

### SEPT. 30 - 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? Class will meet at Tamiment Library, 10th floor Bobst Library, then return to classroom. Special Guest Speaker: Michael Nash, Tamiment Library.*

#### READINGS:

- Roy Rosenzweig and Dan Cohen, Chapter 1, Exploring the History Web, in *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web*.
- David E. Kyvig, *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You* **Third edition** (2010) (AASLH).
- Alexander Halavais, *Search engine society* (2009) Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-84). PDF
- Daniel Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig. Web of lies? Historical knowledge on the Internet, // *First Monday*// (Dec. 2005)
- Po-Yi Hung and Abigail Popp, "Learning to Do Historical Research: How to Frame a Researchable Question", *Williamcronin.net* [website], (last revised Mar. 23, 2009).

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 5-6: Working with Texts and Working with Fonts

#### TAKE SURVEY BEFORE CLASS

[http://nyu.qualtrics.com/SE/131D...M\\_bydSIMj7GVWoHT6](http://nyu.qualtrics.com/SE/131D...M_bydSIMj7GVWoHT6)

#### RECOMMENDED

If you are interested in working on any of the following, look into the AASLH guides. Bobst has most.

- Orville Vernon Burton, "American Digital History," *Social Science Computer Review*, Vol. 23 No. 2, Summer 2005 206-220

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 1-2: How the Web Works and Publishing Web Content.

#### LAB: SETTING UP WEB SERVERS AND CHOOSING AN HTML EDITOR

---

### SEPT. 23 - WEEK 3 - NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY SITE VISIT

- Read a book on Greenwich Village History from this [bibliography](#) (or select your own).

**Class will meet at the NYPL Manuscripts Reading Room, at 5:40 pm. Enter the Library on the 42nd Street entrance. [Map/Directions](#)**

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 3-4: Understanding HTML and XHTML and Understanding CSS
- 

### SEPT. 30 - 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? Class will meet at Tamiment Library, 10th floor Bobst Library, then return to classroom. Special Guest Speaker: Michael Nash, Tamiment Library.*

#### READINGS:

- Roy Rosenzweig and Dan Cohen, (Chapter 1, Exploring the History Web, in *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web*.
- David E. Kyvig, *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You* **Third edition** (2010) (AASLH).
- Alexander Halavais, *Search engine society* (2009) Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-84). PDF
- Daniel Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig. Web of lies? Historical knowledge on the Internet, // *First Monday*// (Dec. 2005)
- Po-Yi Hung and Abigail Popp, "Learning to Do Historical Research: How to Frame a Researchable Question", *Williamcronin.net* [website], (last revised Mar. 23, 2009).

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 5-6: Working with Texts and Working with Fonts

#### TAKE SURVEY BEFORE CLASS

[http://nyu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_bydSIMj7GVWoHT6](http://nyu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bydSIMj7GVWoHT6)

#### RECOMMENDED

If you are interested in working on any of the following, look into the AASLH guides. Bobst has most.

- *Local Businesses: Exploring their History* by K. Austin Kerr, Amos J. Loveday, and Mansel G. Blackford, AASLH (1990).
  - *Houses and Homes: Exploring their History* by Barbara J. Howe, Dolores A. Fleming, Emory L. Kemp, and Ruth Ann Overbeck, AASLH (1987).
  - *Local Schools: Exploring their History* by Ronald E. Butchart, AASLH (1986).
  - *Places of Worship: Exploring their History* by James P. Wind, AASLH (1990).
  - *Invisible Networks: Exploring the History of Local Utilities and Public Works* by Ann Durkin Keating (1994)
  - *American Farms: Exploring their History* by R. Douglas Hurt (1996)
  - *Unlocking City Hall: Exploring the History of Local Government and Politics* by Michael W. Homel (2001)
  - *Getting Around: Exploring Transportation History* by H. Roger Grant (2003)
  - *Joining In: Exploring the History of Voluntary Organizations* by Karen J. Blair (2006)
- 

## OCT. 7-WEEK 5: WRITING HISTORY FOR THE WEB

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

### READINGS:

- Roy Rosenzweig and Dan Cohen, Chapter 2: "Designing for the History Web," in *Digital History* (2006).
- John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction* (2000).
- Paul J. Silvia, *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing* (2007).
- Jakob Nielsen, *Writing for the Web*.
- The Guardian, "How to Write: Memoirs and Biographies" (Sept. 24, 2008)

### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 7-8: Using Tables and Using External and Internal Links

### LAB: RESEARCH TEAM MEETING

---

## OCT. 14-WEEK 6: NO CLASS.

I'll be out of the city at the Association for Documentary Editing meeting. Work on your projects.

### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 9-10: Working with Colors and Creating Images for Use on the Web
- 

## OCT. 21-WEEK 7: DIGITIZATION AND COPYRIGHT

*Scanning, Digitizing, Transcribing Primary Source Materials and Getting Permission to Use Them.*

### READINGS:

- Daniel Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, "Becoming Digital" and "Owning the Past," in *Digital History* (2006) .
- Marilyn Deegan and Simon Tanner "Conversion of Primary Sources," in Ray Siemens, John Unsworth, and Susan Schreibman. *Companion to Digital Humanities* (2004).
- Peter B. Hirtle, Emily Hudson and Andrew Kenyon, *Copyright and Cultural Institutions: Guidelines for Digitization for U.S. Libraries, Archives, and Museums* (2009)
- Lawrence Lessig, "Keynote speech at EDUCAUSE" (2009), [speed](#) begins at about minute 27. It lasts about an hour and 15 minutes.
- Roy Rosenzweig, "Should Historical Scholarship Be Free?," *AHA Perspectives* (2005) .

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 11-12: Using Images in Your Website and Using Multimedia in your Website

#### LAB: DIGITIZATION- SCANNING/RESEARCH TEAM MEETINGS

---

### OCT. 28 - WEEK 8: METADATA AND TAGGING

#### READINGS:

- Gene Smith, *Tagging :people-powered metadata for the social web* (2008). **Skip chapter 8, Technical Design unless you want to read it.**
- M. W. Elings and G. Waibel. "Metadata for all: Descriptive standards and metadata sharing across libraries, archives and museums," *First Monday* (2007) 12, no. 3.
- Geoffrey Nunberg, "Google's Book Search: A Disaster for Scholars," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Aug. 31, 2009.
- National Archives Document Analysis Worksheets
- Diane Hillmann, [//Using Dublin Core//](#).

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 13-14: Working with Frames and Working with Margins, Padding, Alignment and Placing

#### LAB: OMEKA, DUBLIN CORE, AND TAGGING

---

### NOV. 4 - WEEK 9: A SENSE OF TIME AND PLACE

*Using maps to instill a sense of place into history. Time is a popular organizing principle for historical presentations. Creating timelines and chronologies offers a powerful way to organize and relate historical facts and artifacts*

#### READINGS:

- Gerard R. Wolfe, "Greenwich Village," and "The Lafayette Historic Group and East Village," in *New York: 15 Walking Tours: an architectural guide to the metropolis*, 2003, pp. 107-141. [**Get digital image**]
- Christine Boyer, ed. "Straight Down Christopher Street," in Rick Beard and Leslie Berlowitz, eds. *Greenwich Village: Culture and Counterculture* (1993), 36-53 A Sense of Time

- "Periodization" in Samuel Macey, *The Encyclopedia of Time*, (1994), pp. 446-447.
- Jason Scott Smith, "The Long Age: History of the Decade: Modernity, Nostalgia, and the Perils of Periodization." *Journal of Social History*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (Winter, 1998), pp. 263-285.

9

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 15-16: Understanding CSS Box Models and Using CSS to do More with Lists

#### LAB: TIMELINE ASSIGNMENT/GOOGLE MAPPING/OMEKA MAPPING

---

### NOV. 11-WEEK 10: HISTORICAL GIS (SPECIAL PRESENTER, HIM MISTRY, BOBST DATA STUDIO)

*Digging deeper into place-based historical research using Geographic Information Systems.*

#### READINGS:

- David Rumsey and Meredith Williams, *Historical Maps in GIS*, Chapter 1 of *Past Time, Past Place: GIS in History 2002* and Benjamin C. Ray, "Teaching the Salem Witch Trials," Chapter 2 of *Past Time, Past Place: GIS in History 2002* -
- Anne Kelly Knowles, "GIS and History," David J. Bodenhamer, "History and GIS: Implications for the Discipline," in Knowles, *Placing History 2008*, 1-25.

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 17-18: Using CSS to Design Navigation and Using Mouse Functions to Modify Test Display

#### LAB: HTML/OMEKA TROUBLESHOOTING

---

### NOV. 18-WEEK 11: BUILDING EXHIBITS

#### READINGS:

- Martin R Kalfatovic, *Creating a winning online exhibition : a guide for libraries, archives, and museums* (2002), Chapter 1-3, Chapter 8, and Appendix B: "Online Exhibitions Versus Digital Collections," "The Idea," "Executing the Idea," "Design," and "Sample Exhibition Script." PDF
- AASLH, Chapter 11: Putting Together a House History," in *Houses and Homes: Exploring their History*, pp. 147-58.
- Check out the Off the Wall blog [<http://ocphoffthewall.blogspot.com/>]

#### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 19-20: Creating Fixed or Liquid Layouts and Creating Print-Friendly Web Pages

#### LAB: OMEKA EXHIBITS/HTML TROUBLESHOOTING

---

## NOV. 25-WEEK 12: NO CLASS - ENJOY THANKSGIVING!

*Work on your assignments over the break, in between football and leftovers.*

## DEC. 2-WEEK 13: BUILDING WEB SITES AND AUDIENCES

### READINGS:

- Dan Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, "Building an Audience" in *Digital History* (2006).
- Paula Petrick, "Top Ten Mistakes in Academic Web Design" *History Computer Review* (2000).
- Clay Shirky, *Here Comes Everybody: The Power of Organizing without Organizations* (2007)

### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 21-22: Understanding Dynamic Web Sites and Working with Web-Based Forms

### LAB: OMEKA AND HTML TROUBLESHOOTING

---

## ++ DEC. 9-WEEK 14: INFORMATION ABUNDANCE

*With the spread of the Web, historians and the general public need to cut through the forest not just to find the trees, but the leaves as well.*

### READINGS:

- David Weinberger, *Everything is miscellaneous : the power of the new digital disorder* (2007) .
- Rosenzweig, Roy. "Scarcity or Abundance? Preserving the Past in a Digital Era." *American Historical Review* 108, no. 3 (2003): 762, 735.
- Patrick Leary, "Googling the Victorians" (2005).
- David Levy, "No time to think: Reflections on information technology and contemplative scholarship" *Ethics and Information Technology* 9, no. 4 (Dec. 15,2007): 237-249.

### HTML/CSS EXERCISE

- Meloni & Morrison, *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML & CSS in 24 Hours*, Chapters 23-24: Organizing and Managing a Web Site and Helping People Find your Web Pages.

### LAB: OMEKA AND HTML TROUBLESHOOTING

---

## DEC. 16-WEEK 15: WEB EXHIBIT OPEN HOUSE

*Finished exhibits will be demonstrated.*

page revision: 133, last edited: 6 Sep 2010, 14:17 -0-400 (23 hours ago)

---

Unless stated otherwise Content of this page is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)