

Digital Storytelling—Kansas Literature and History

Spring 2017
Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:15
Mabee 206B

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Course Description:

Students will use digital tools to understand, critique, and create narratives about Kansas. Taking the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection at Mabee Library, students will conduct primary source research to produce an original project exploring the history and literature of Kansas. The course will teach students digital tools important to practitioners in the humanities and social sciences. Students will exhibit their projects as websites, which will be hosted and publically available.

The course will begin with a period of intense research, conducted with the assistance of digital data-organizing tools, such as Zotero. Students will also explore different digital technologies that might assist in constructing and displaying stories. Once the topics we wish to represent as stories have been selected, students will work in groups to determine the nature of each story and what digital tools are most appropriate to their own storytelling strategy. These may include tools/software for publishing, crafting a digital repository, data and geo-spatial mapping, photo manipulation, and audio editing. The exact constellation of tools will be determined by the students' projects.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students in this course will learn to

- 1) Evaluate written, oral (and/or visual information), evidence, and argument for reliability and authority (and/or usefulness). Examples of sources listed include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: observation, testimony, measurement, and experimental research.
- 2) Analyze own and other's assumptions systematically and methodically, and evaluate relevance of contexts when presenting a position.
- 3) Develop well-supported, clearly articulated argument(s) to support a stance and use to justify one or more conclusions.
- 4) Select and use digital tools appropriate for the resources, audience, and spirit of a project.

Required Texts:

- Required reading in this course will begin with the Kansas Collection, which students will explore to find the subject they would like to research.
- Additional research in sources outside of the Kansas Collection will be required in order to provide context.
- Students are not required to purchase any texts for this course, but they MUST purchase a domain and storage through Reclaim Hosting. **There is a discount for students in this class. Instructions are available on the course D2L site. The discount code is reclaim4edu.**

Course Requirements:

Success in this course requires completing all of its components: timely completion of research assignments, participation in class discussion, and completion of components and final project.

Grade Distribution:

Attendance, Participation, and Collaboration 25%
Research Assignments (individual and contributions to group) 25%
Final Project (including preliminary drafts) 50%

Class Schedule:

January 17 Welcome!

January 19 How do we take a collection and tell a story? research and conceptualization
*In-class digital: Students sign up for Reclaim Hosting and install WordPress (30 minutes)

January 24 Kansas History and Literature (selections from the nineteenth century)

January 26 Working with Collections
*In-class digital: Students install Omeka and experiment
*Assignment due: Create a skeleton for your professional page

January 27 (optional) Kansas Day Speaker, Brent Campney on “The Black Freedom Struggle and the White Backlash in Small-Town Kansas, 1960–1975.” Henderson 208, 4 p.m.

January 31 (in MA 205) Kansas History and Literature (selections from the 20th century)

February 2 (in MA 205) Mapping and its uses—introduction to CartoDB, Neatline, etc.

*In-class digital: Students install Neatline and experiment

*Assignment due: use Omeka to build a mini-collection

February 7 Brainstorm projects and connect with the collection

February 9 Construct project list

*Assignments due: Use mapping software to tell a story

February 14 Research in the collection

*Students assigned to projects

February 16 Working with Data—introduction to visualization software

February 21 Research in the Collection

*Assignments due: Project Charter

February 23 Working with Sound—Editing with Audacity

*Assignments due: Create a data visualization

February 28 Class Lab/Research

*Assignments due: Preliminary Research Plan

March 2 Class Lab/Research

*Assignments due: Edit an audio file

March 7 Kansas Historical Society Visit

March 9 Class Lab/Research

March 14 Class Lab/Research

*Assignments due: Project Outline

March 16 Class Lab/Research

March 21 (Spring Break)
March 23 (Spring Break)

March 28 Class Lab/Research
March 30 Class Lab/Research

April 4 Class Lab/Research
April 6 Class Lab/Research

April 11 Class Lab/Research
April 13 Class Lab/Research

****April 14-15 is the Kansas Association of Historians Annual Meeting. All groups are encouraged to participate in a panel to exhibit your work. This is a very friendly conference, and works-in-progress are ENCOURAGED!****

April 18 Preliminary Presentation of Websites
*Assignment due: In-class presentation of group site

April 20 Class Lab/Editing

April 25 Public presentation of website
*Assignment due: Public presentation of website

April 27 Feedback from public presentation of website from Review Panel

****Friday, April 28, is Apeiron—students are highly encouraged to participate with a presentation or a poster****

May 2 Class Lab/Editing

May 4 Wrap-up
*Assignment due: Final project live on-line