

*Theories and Practices of "Digital History:"  
New Tools for Exploring and Presenting the Past*  
**SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The advent of the world wide web and the development of tools to digitize massive amounts of historical source material are augmenting and changing the ways historians find and analyze sources, as well as how they present their work. This seminar explores recent literature on these developments. It includes practice in using digital tools and the internet to gather sources, collaborate with amateur and professional historians, present one's findings in new ways to new audiences, and interact with consumers of historical representations.

Participants are expected to report weekly on the readings and their explorations and interactions with various digital and social media tools. Each of us will create a blog on a publicly available platform (e.g. [Blogger](#), [Wordpress](#)) to record our activities and comment on (and link to) each other's work. Everyone will create and present a final project, which might be anything from converting a research paper or body of sources into a rich online format, to creating and/or analyzing a corpus of texts, to creating an online resource about a particular topic. Projects will be evaluated based on their design, navigability and outreach, as well as their content.

There are four broad ways digital tools and media affect historical work: research, analysis, presentation/dissemination, and interactivity. While learning and practicing with some of these tools, we will attempt to answer questions such as:

- > Do these tools change the practice of historical interpretation in any fundamental ways?
- > Do they allow us to ask and answer new types of questions?
- > How do these tools allow us to produce more comprehensive and accessible forms of history?
- > Do they require new ways of reading and skills of assessment?
- > Are they changing the way we as societies conceive of our past?

**CORE BOOKS (USE ONLINE VERSION OR PURCHASE; ADDITIONAL TEXTS ON GAUCHOSPACE)**

1. Daniel Cohen & Roy Rosenzweig, *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Preserving, and Presenting the Past on the Web* (UPenn, 2006). [ebook website](#)
2. Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens, John Unsworth (eds.), *A Companion to Digital Humanities* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004). [ebook website](#)
3. Jack Dougherty and Kristen Nawrotzki (eds.), *Writing History in the Digital Age* (Creative Commons, 2013). [ebook website](#)
4. Matthew Gold (ed.), *Debates in the Digital Humanities* (Univ. of Minnesota, 2012). [ebook](#)
5. Sarah Horton, *Web Teaching Guide: A Practical Approach to Creating Course Web Sites* (Yale, 2000). [amazon](#); [companion website](#) [Also: *Access by Design*, 2005, [amazon](#)]
6. T. Mills Kelly, *Teaching History in the Digital Age* (Michigan, 2013). [ebook](#)
7. Patrick Lynch and Sarah Horton, *Web Style Guide: Basic Design Principles for Creating Web Sites* (Yale, 3rd ed. 2009). [ebook](#)
8. Jakob Nielsen and Hoa Loranger, *Prioritizing Web Usability* (Pearson/New Riders, 2006).
9. Roy Rosenzweig, *Clio Wired: The Future of the Past in the Digital Age* (Columbia UP, 2013).
10. David Staley, *Computers, Visualization, and History: How New Technology Will Transform Our Understanding of the Past* (M.E.Sharp, 2013).
11. Toni Weller (ed.), *History in the Digital Age* (Routledge, 2013). [google books](#), [amazon](#), [preview](#)

