

Website/digital work

History 297: History Colloquium (Historiography)

Fall 2019

Prof. Jason Sellers, UMW

Students will create, organize, and maintain a webpage and blog with the help of the instructor and DKC staff. In addition to creating the webspace, including a short profile, portfolio, and resume/list of skills, students will write and organize a series of short blog posts about historiography, and the research and writing process, with the idea that they will further develop those ideas in classroom discussions; they will also use mapping and timeline tools to add features to this website. Some topics and due dates will be assigned, but others will allow more open responses. Website/digital work is worth 10% of the final grade for the class. Grading won't be stringent; the goal is to introduce you to some of these skills and tools, not evaluate whether or not you have absolutely mastered WordPress, Timeline JS, etc.

Blog posts (1% each, graded on a 10-point scale)

1. Sept. 9, Blog post 1: Professionalization of history--how are popular and academic histories different, and why are those differences significant? Why don't they always align?
2. Sept. 20, Blog post 2: Parkman and Jennings in historical context--what contemporary events/developments shaped their approach to historical thinking and writing? How/why might Anderson be different?
3. Oct. 16, Blog post 3: Traditional fields--do you find more "traditional" historiographical fields (military, political/diplomatic, economic) appealing, and why/why not? What are their strengths/weaknesses? Why do you think historians have expanded, complicated, challenged these genres, like they did in rethinking their approach to Colonial America?
4. Nov. 1, Blog post 4: What do these more recent fields (women's/gender, social and cultural, ethnohistory, environmental history) offer to the study of history as a whole? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How do you feel about them personally?
5. Nov. 25, Blog post 5: Digital resources and production--what is the utility of digital tools (used in sources and research, presentation and communication, analysis, etc.) for historians? For other professionals?

Blog posts should be reflective, considering the processes of researching and writing historiography, and considering questions of method (theory, sources, frameworks, etc.), rather than conveying historical information. Write approximately 300 words; you may write more if you wish. Style/technical aspects matter in that you are writing for a professional and public audience, but only in exceptional cases will they significantly impact my evaluation of your blog posts; I am more interested in you expressing and supporting opinions and reflecting on the issues we are raising in class and readings. Do think about voice here--this is an opportunity to be chatty and informal if you wish, or to practice more formal writing.

Website components (1% each, 10-point scale graded full credit/half-credit/no-credit)

1. You must personalize your site with a theme, title, and brief profile (including an image). We will talk in class about managing your digital identity, but I know some students may

have privacy concerns; please speak with the DKC and/or myself about how to fulfill these requirements while maintaining your privacy.

2. Begin building/adding to a resume/curriculum vitae. We will talk about formats, professional skills, and career options during the semester, and your resume/CV should reflect some of those discussions.
3. Create a portfolio of your work. We will see several ways to do this, and will discuss why it might be an important function of your digital identity.
4. Incorporate the timeline you created in our workshop. You may choose to include this as a separate page, as part of your portfolio, or as a component of your final blog post.
5. Incorporate the map you created in our workshop. You may choose to include this as a separate page, as part of your portfolio, or as a component of your final blog post.

Remember that our workshops are intended to get students started on these, and that other than the blog posts, you should be able to do most of this during those sessions. I can assist with some technical matters, but an even better resources is the Digital Knowledge Center in the ITCC. For more information, including online resources and appointment scheduling, go to <http://dkc.umw.edu/>