

Teaching History with New Media

SPRING 2025 • HIS 3630 •
TTh 9:30-10:45 am • ABH 240
<https://thnm.rwansibaja.com>

WELCOME TO THNM!

HIS 3630 explores what it means to teach history in the digital age. The title might make the "tech" aspect a bit nerve wracking. It's OK! You do not need to be tech savvy to succeed. The tools and approaches we will explore are ones historians have used in their own work ... and you know how "old school" historians can be!

Have fun! Ask questions. Get help. I'm here to help every step of the way!



Prof. Rwany Sibaja

DROP-IN HOURS



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appstate.zoom.us/j/4651190141



828.264.8476



Anne Belk 249M

T & Th: 8:30-9:15am /
Th (only): 10:45-11:30am
or by Zoom (appt. only)

LEARNING TARGETS



By the end of the semester, students should be able to ...

To explore the intersection of technology, history, and the public

Secondary Objectives



TO EVALUATE THE WAYS IN WHICH DIGITAL TOOLS CAN RE-IMAGINE THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF HISTORY



TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN "DIGITAL" IDENTITY



TO IDENTIFY TECHNOLOGY FOR BEST ENGAGING AUDIENCES (STUDENTS/WEB USERS/GENERAL PUBLIC)

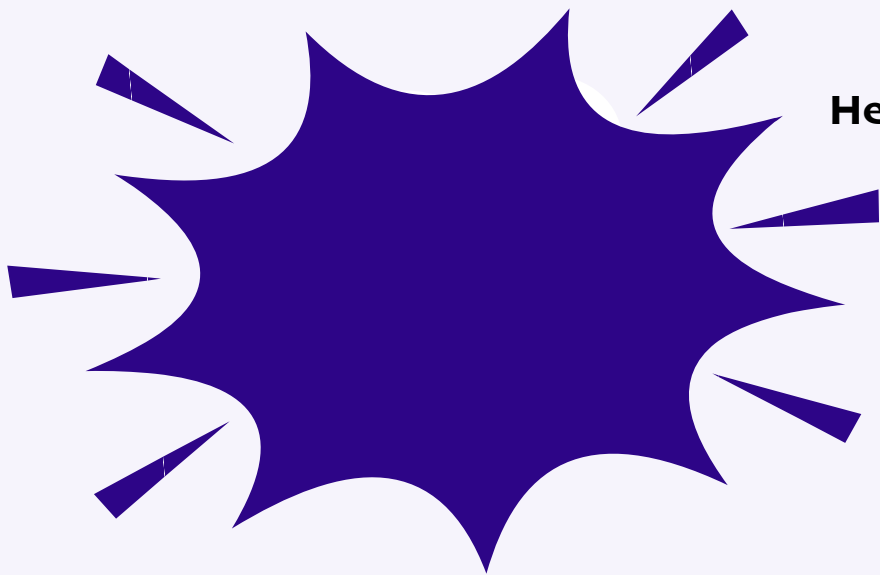
TEXTBOOKS & RESOURCES



- HIS 3630 does not have required textbooks.
- All textbooks used in the course are free online, see [Readings page](#) on our course website
- For a weekly list of readings, access by Units on the [Readings page](#) of the course website
- For resources you will need for class projects, access the [Digital Tools page](#) of the course website (and its subpage)
- For help and best practices, go to the [Campus Support page](#) (and subpages)
- Templates & 9-12 Social Studies Resources at: history.appstate.edu/historyeducation



AsU Learn is for submitting assignments, and recording grades & attendance



Here, and on the next page, learn more about:

- ★ **YOUR GENERAL WORKLOAD**
- ★ **COURSE FORMAT**
- ★ **ASSIGNMENTS**
- ★ **GRADING SCALE**
- ★ **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS & FEEDBACK**
- ★ **COURSE POLICIES**

General Workload

Most weeks you will read two or three short reading selections (blog posts, webpage, book excerpts, articles). The conversation about these readings begins **ONLINE** before we meet on Tuesday and Thursday. You will be able to choose which seven (7) weeks to complete the reading assignment, and which weeks to take off from posting work ... but always scan the readings each week!

The grades are fairly even (with more emphasis on the archival project and readings analysis). The focus of your research should be grounded in either US or World History, and must be aligned to NC state standards for 9-12 Social Studies. However, the topic is yours to choose! All curriculum work must be well researched for both the content and the teaching strategies you will use via digital tools.

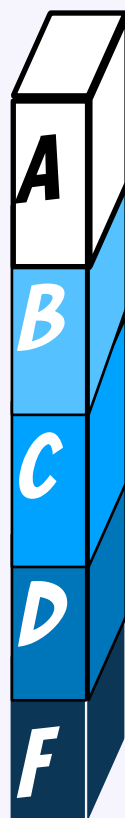
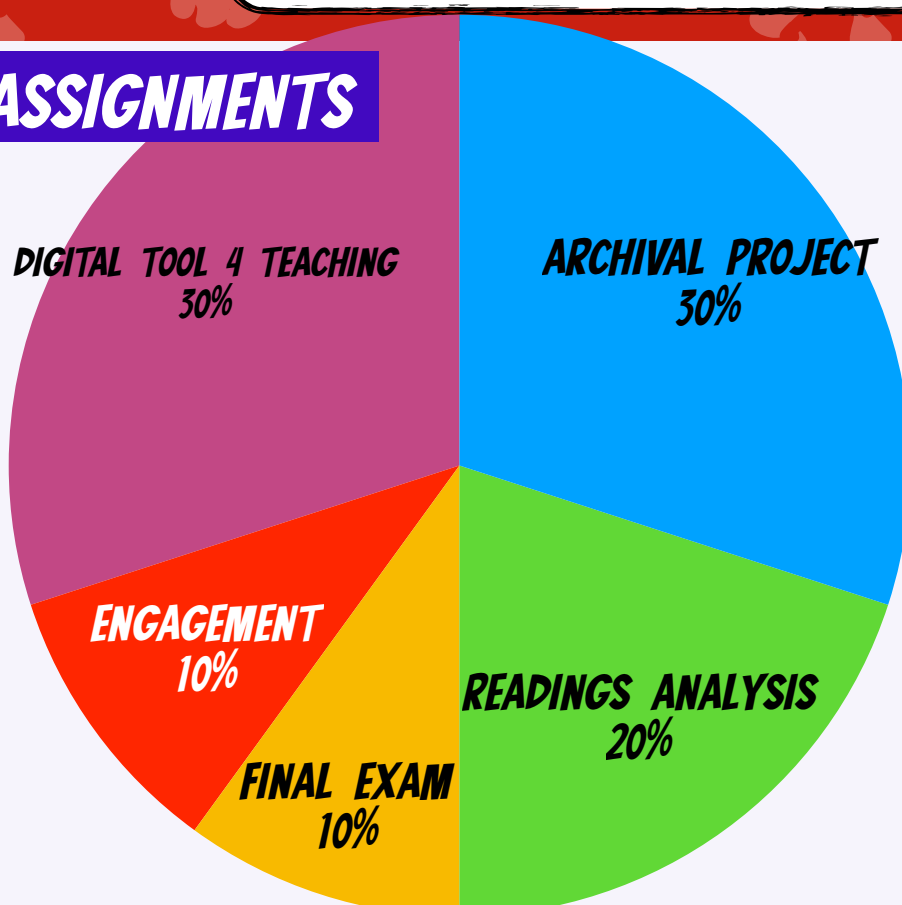


Course Format

The first aspect of this course you should be aware of is that it is **not** lecture-based. Rather, it's based on regular discussions, collaborative work and research, and project-based learning. **EVERYTHING** in this course is designed to push you as a historian and educator.

HIS 3630 is divided into 3 units: Intro to Digital History and the Role of the History Educator, Engaging the Public with History through New Media, and Considerations for Teaching & Production.

ASSIGNMENTS



-100
-90
-80
-70
-60

GRADING SCALE

NOTES

- ◆ Follows ASU scale (A=93+, A-=90-92, B+=87-89, B=83-86, B-=80-82, etc.)
- ◆ Both major projects include a first and second draft.
- ◆ Presentations are included in both projects
- ◆ Final Exam is an essay (with alternate digital formats possible)

Strategies for Success

- ▶ Take care of your emotional, physical, and mental health. Reach out if you begin to feel overwhelmed.
- ▶ Set aside specific time for course readings and classwork. Consider that time as “in-class.”
- ▶ Type or write down notes as you go through the weekly readings.
 - ▶ [For a primer on reading like a historian, and not wasting too much time completing reading assignments, see “[How to Read a Book in One Hour](#)” by Larry Cebula]
- ▶ Use the various campus & online resources for writing, researching, and citing (and projects).
- ▶ Make use of drop-in hours to share ideas, get help, or get clarification. Schedule via zoom if needed.



(MY DOG ... STARING AT A SQUIRREL)



HOW WILL I RECEIVE FEEDBACK?

Typical response time for non-urgent emails will be within 24-48 hours. Return time for feedback and assessment is approx. 1 week after submission or due date.*

WHAT WILL EACH CLASS LOOK LIKE?

Intro to topic, project focus, digital tool practice, group work (lab), closure

CAN I REALLY RESEARCH ANYTHING FOR MY PROJECTS?

Of course! Just run it by the instructor, and make sure it aligns to NCS for 9-12 Social Studies

WHAT ARE THE COURSE POLICIES?

HIS 3630 follows policies at App State (link). **Specific course policies below**

HOW DO I SUBMIT WORK?

Assignments will be posted to the course website or emailed to the instructor (shared Google Doc files). Final work will be on the course website under designated categories.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

HEP policy: Because we meet 2x week, students can miss up to 4 classes. You will receive a notification after the 3rd absence, a required meeting and action plan after the 4th >> A 5th absence leads to automatic failure of the course.

Late Work

Due dates are the final dates to submit work; you can submit early anytime. Life happens, though. If you need to submit an assignment late, you can use the [Late Work Notification ticket](#) up to **four** times (exceptions included).

Participation - Positive Learning Environment

We learn best from speaking to each other. The goal is **not** to speak more (quantity); rather, you should strive to provide substantive (quality) comments online and in class. Please value each other's ideas and questions. Most of you are future social studies teacher. You will come to realize the importance of fostering a welcoming environment, one where students are free to share their thoughts on hard topics.

Honesty

ASU's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. You can read the full .pdf document on ASU's policy on plagiarism and cheating at: academicintegrity.appstate.edu (click on “Academic Integrity Code”).

JAN 23 & FEB 20

No Class Meetings

JAN 28

Research Topics Due

FEB 6

Secondary Sources Due

FEB 13

Annotated Bibliog. Due
(with Expanded
Secondary Sources and
Primary Sources)

FEB 25

Lesson Plan Due (Dig Tool)

MAR 4 & 6

Lesson Plan & Digital Tool
Presentations - Teaching
Demos

MAR 20

Lesson Plan & DT Due

KEY DATES



MAR 20

Omeka research
added to Zotero; 1st
item added to site

MAR 27

Five Items Due

APR 8

Omeka Site (v.1) and
Presentations; all 10
items posted

APR 24

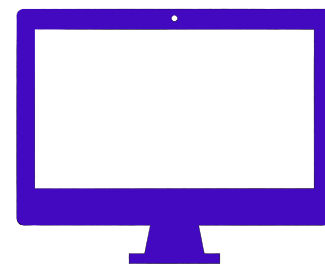
Final Omeka Site (v2)
with Lesson Plan

MAY 8

Last Day to Submit
FE (by 10:30 am)



WEEKLY SCHEDULE



Full list of Readings located on the [HIS 3630 WordPress Course website](#)

WEEK

1. [Jan 14 & 16]: FDOC: Introductions / Tech Support - WordPress & Zotero
2. [Jan 21]: Tech Support: Omeka / NC state standards for history/social studies
 - No Class Meeting Jan 23
3. [Jan 28 & 30]: The role of the history educator - working with new media
4. [Feb 4 & 6]: Digitized archives and collections, and the problem of abundance
5. [Feb 11 & 13]: Visualizations
6. [Feb 18]: Social media and writing online (blogging, microblogging, etc.) / Asynchronous Lab Time
 - No Class Meeting Feb 22 - will be at NCCSS (asynchronous work on revisions)
7. [Feb 25 & 27]: Rethinking presentations: storymapping & timelines
8. [Mar 4 & 6]: Rethinking presentations: digital storytelling & slideshare tools
9. **** Spring Break is from March 10 to 14 ****
10. [Mar 18 & 20]: Presentations - digital tool with lesson plan [March 24: last day to drop, use a career drop]
11. [Mar 25 & 27]: Copyright, fair use, copyleft
12. [Apr 1 & 3]: Technology and the distracted student
13. [Apr 8 & 10]: Omeka lab work
14. [Apr 15 & 17]: Omeka presentations - version 1.0
15. [Apr 22 & 24]: Choose your path: misinformation, gaming, authenticity, ethics
16. [Apr 29]: LDOC: Course Wrap Up

FINAL EXAM: Thurs, May 8, from 8 am – 10:30 am [Reading Day is Apr 30]

USEFUL LINKS

Explore required and useful 9-12 Social Studies Resources at: <https://history.appstate.edu/historyeducation/9-12-resources>

Also:

- The History Dept. [goals and practices for 3000-level courses](#)
- [Belk Library](#)
 - Research Support? [Contact Whitney Bevill](#) (History Dept. Library Specialist) - helpful for research on history content and pedagogical research for history and social studies education
- Check out the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) for citing resources in your lesson plans and other work
 - See conventions for the [notes & bibliography system](#).
- Support from the [Office of Disability Resources](#)
- Appalachian State University [Writing Center](#)
- Appalachian State University [Career Development Center](#) (resume & cover letter)
- The Office of [Student Affairs](#)

