

FNST 222: Indigenous Digital Media
Spring 2019
Madeline Knickerbocker



This course will introduce students to the emerging fields of new media and digital humanities from an Indigenous Studies perspective. Throughout the course, students will develop an understanding of how creatives, scholars, and publics can use new media (highly interactive forms of digital and computational communication) and digital humanities (the use of new media by students and scholars in interdisciplinary fields) to innovate new ways of sharing, representing, and accessing Indigenous content and knowledges. In so doing, they will also acquire an understanding of the importance of respectful and ethical approaches to Indigenous digital media, and the need of ensuring that Indigenous community protocols can be followed in new media and digital humanities projects.

The course will span three units: issues, case studies, and workshops. The first will cover the major intellectual issues in Indigenous digital media; the second will let us examine some of these issues in greater depth, with reference to specific digital platforms and applications; and the third will give students significant in-class time to explore and develop their own digital media skills relating to Indigenous Studies content, by learning how to use NVivo, ArcGIS, and Story Maps (or other applications identified by students to be of the most interest to them).

In addition to classroom and online participation, students will work on a course blog, and propose and develop their own digital media project.

As befits a digital media course, class readings will be available online.

Assignments

Class & Online Participation (20%)

Class Blog Post (25%)

Indigenous Digital Media Project Proposal (15%)

Indigenous Digital Media Project (30%) and Reflection Post (10%)

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

Class Introductions & Digital Footprints

- Introductions to the course and each other
- Individual digital footprint audit and reflection
- Loretta Todd, "Aboriginal Narratives in Cyberspace" in *Immersed in Technology: Art and Visual Environments*, Mary Anne Moser and Douglas MacLeod, eds., 179-194 (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1996)

Issues 1: Identity

- Todd Honma, "Trippin' Over the Color Line: The Invisibility of Race in Library and Information Studies," *Interactions* 1, no. 2 (2005): 1-26
- Bring in an example of an Indigenous digital media project

Issues 2: Appropriation

- Kavita Philip, Lilly Irani, Paul Dourish, "Postcolonial Computing: A Tactical Survey," *Science, Technology, and Human Values* 000, no. 00 (2010): 1-27.
- Read the Native Appropriations blog and follow Dr. Adrienne Keene on Twitter

Issues 3: Repatriation, Reclamation, Reconciliation

- **Due: Class Blog Post**
- Read one of the two Christen articles:
 - o Kimberly Christen, "Gone Digital: Aboriginal Remix and the Cultural Commons," *International Journal of Cultural Property* (2005): 315-345.
 - o Kimberly Christen, "Opening Archives: Respectful Repatriation," *The American Archivist* 74 (Spring/Summer 2011): 185-210.

Case Studies 1: Digitization

- Timothy B Powell and Larry P Aitken, chi-ayy ya agg (Wisdom Keeper), "Encoding Culture: Building a Digital Archive Based on Traditional Ojibwe Teachings," *The American Literature Scholar in the Digital Age*, Amy Earhart and Andrew Jewell, eds., 250-274 (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2010)
- Trip to the Bill Reid Centre, Indigenous Artwalk using Ímesh mobile app

Case Studies 2: Storytelling and Podcasting

- Taylor Mitchell, "Indigenous Podcasting: Resisting the Colonial Paradigm" *Grassroots Journal*, November 6, 2017
- Listen to an episode of *Stories From the Land* podcast and come prepared to share what you heard
- Review the website for *The People and the Text*

Case Studies 3: Wikipedia

- Due: Indigenous Digital Media Project Proposal
- Siobhan Senier, "Indigenizing Wikipedia: Student Accountability to Native American Authors on the World's Largest Encyclopedia," *Web Writing*, 2013
- In-class Wikipedia edit-a-thon

Workshop 1: NVivo

- Using NVivo for Humanities Research, Digital Humanities Innovation Lab

Workshop 2: ArcGIS

- The Spatial Elements of Textual Analysis, Digital Humanities Innovation Lab

Workshop 3: Story Maps

- Creating Story Maps, Digital Humanities Innovation Lab

Project Presentations & Class Celebration

- Due: Indigenous Digital Media Project & Reflection