

ANT 4851 Digital Anthropology
University of Florida
Spring 2018

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Meeting Times and Location:

Tues 9:35 – 11:30 McCarty B Room 1108
Thurs 9:35-10:25 Rinker Hall 208
Final Exam: Thursday, May 3 10:00-12:00

Office Location/ Office Hours:

Turlington 1112 Tuesday 2:30-5:00 / Wednesday 11:00-1:00 *other times by appointment*

Course Description: Digital anthropology is the study of how digital technology affects human culture. This course introduces students to the theories and methods necessary for doing research in a digital space. Students will learn both how to use ethnographic methods in a digital space and how to use digital technology to conduct traditional ethnographies. In addition, the course will consider the ethical challenges of studying human interactions within these translocal digital technologies.

Course Pre-requisites: *None.*

Required Text(s) and Supplemental Readings:

Required Textbooks:

Boellstorff, Tom. *Ethnography and Virtual Worlds a Handbook of Method*. Princeton Univ. Pr., 2012. ISBN: 0691149518

Horst, Heather A., and Daniel Miller. *Digital Anthropology*. Bloomsbury Academic, an Imprint of Bloomsbury, 2014. ISBN: 0857852906

Additional readings are also on canvas and listed in the syllabus.

Course Requirements and Methods of Assessment:

Readings: You are expected to complete the assigned readings and come to class ready to discuss the material. Because the field of digital anthropology is evolving so quickly some of the readings will change and many of the readings will come from popular press. Please understand the field of digital anthropology is new and quickly emerging. As such the readings are subject to change as new articles are published throughout the semester.

Assignments:

There are weekly labs, two short essays, one midterm essay, and a final project

Short essays (2-3 pages) 15 points each

Midterm (3-5 pages) 20 points

Final Proposal 5 points

Final project (to be determined) is worth 40 points

Lab assignments are worth a total of 15 points

You may complete up to 3 of the 5 extra credit film screenings for one point each.

Late work: Late work will drop one letter grade per day. After one week, late work is only eligible for half credit.

Grading Scale:

A 100 – 92	C+ 79 – 78
A- 91 – 90	C 77 – 72
B+ 89 – 88	C- 71 – 70
B 82 – 87	D+ 69 – 68
B- 80 – 81	D 67 – 60
F 59 – 0	

Class Attendance Policy:

I will not take attendance each class period. However, frequent absences will negatively impact your participation score, show through poor lab grades and a lack of depth on the discussion papers.

Academic Honesty:

Cheating, plagiarism, violation of test conditions, complicity in dishonest behavior, or other falsification of academic work is a serious breach of College expectations and is subject to immediate disciplinary action.

Plagiarism: There is no more serious academic offense than plagiarism. Plagiarism is academic theft, where the writer passes off as his or her own the ideas or words of another. **If you plagiarize, you will receive a zero for that assignment and I will refer the matter to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action.** You must be familiar with the College's policies on plagiarism. If you have any questions please refer to the University's Honor Code, which is available online at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>.

Statement on Disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The Disability Resource office is located in 001 Reid Hall. Further information can be found at www.dso.ufl.edu/drp.

Mental Health:

The university offers confidential counseling services to help students deal with personal concerns that interfere with learning and academic progress. The Counseling Center's professional counselors provide individual and group counseling and crisis intervention on short-term and emergency issues as well as consultation and referral services. All services are strictly confidential and are not part of students' college records.

1. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 391-1171 (personal counseling)
3. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601

EVW = Ethnography and Virtual Worlds / DA = Digital Anthropology / EL = Canvas

Week	Date	Topic	Readings (Subject to Change)	Lab / Assignment
1	1/9	Introduction	None	Who are you?
1	1/11	What is Digital Anthro	Why this Handbook & Three Brief Histories EVW p.3-28 The Digital and the Human DA p.3-30	Who do you know?
2	1/16	Ethics	Ethics: Ethics EVW p. 129- 150 Experimental evidence (EL) Facebook TOS (EL) Londoners give up eldest children (EL)	Facebook TOS exercise
2	1/18	Setting up Social Media	Social Media Guidebook (EL) Culinary School Instagram Skills (EL) The Myth of 'Professional' Twitter Accounts (EL)	Setting up Twitter
3	1/23	Social Networks	Social Networking Sites DA p.146-164 Network Analysis in the Social Sciences (EL) Collective dynamics of 'small-world' networks (EL)	
3	1/25	Social Networks		Egonet
4	1/30	Digital Communities	Expanding the horizons of digital social networks: Mixing big trace datasets with qualitative approaches (EL)	
4	2/1	Digital Communities		Gainesville Green Zabasearch Meetup
5	2/6	Presentation	Internet dating and Respectable Women (EL)	
5	2/8	Presentation	Performing the Looking-Glass Self (EL)	Avatar Exercise
6	2/13	Digital Methods	Ten Myths EVW p.29-51	Paper: Social Media
6	2/15	Participant Observation	Participant Observation EVW p. 65-91	Second Life
7	2/20	Data collection	Interviews & Virtual World EVW p. 92-112	
7	2/22	Data collection	Other Data Collection EVW p.113-128 Putting Documentary Films in ConText (EL)	ConText Exercise
8	2/27	Research Design	Research Design EVW p.52-64	
8	3/1	Research Design		Design practice
9	3/6	Spring Break		No Class
9	3/8	Spring Break		No Class

10	3/13	Digital Economics	Economic research mmorpgs quick overview (EL) Free Software & Politics DA p.185-202	Midterm Paper
10	3/15	Digital Currency	Bitcoin EL	Tracking bitcoin
11	3/20	Mapping Digital Space	Geomedia DA p. 80-100	
11	3/22	Mapping Digital Space	Life on a Pixel: Challenges in the Development of Digital Methods (EL)	Virtual Archaeology
12	3/27	Digital Archaeology	Archaeogaming (EL) Archaeogaming, Ethics, And Participatory Standards (EL) Virtual-Communities, Virtual Settlements & Cyber-Archaeology (EL)	Project proposal
12	3/29	Digital Archaeology		Digital Archaeology
13	4/3	Applied Digital Anthro	Museum + Digital DA p. 266-287	SfAA
13	4/5	Applied Digital Anthro	Community makers, major museums, and the Keet S'aaxw (EL)	SfAA
14	4/10	Data Analysis	Data Analysis EVW p.159-181	
14	4/12	Data analysis	Lab on data analysis	In-class work
15	4/17	Presenting Digital Research	Writing up Research EVW p.182-195	Museum response
15	4/19	Future of the Discipline	TBA	Future
16	4/24	Presentations	Presentations	
16	4/26	Reading Day		No Class
Final	5/3	Final Ethnographies (webcast)		Final Exam 10am-12pm