
DIGITAL TOOLKIT I in Spring 2019 (CM1500B)

Course Code	CM1500B	Professor(s)	Georgi Stojanov, Jessica Feldman
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	Feldman:305 Grenelle
Class Schedule	M: 13:45-15:05 in C-102 R: 13:45-15:05 in C-302	Office Hours	Wed 3:15-5:15 or by appointment
Credits	4	Email	gstojanov@aup.edu, jfeldman@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Digital toolkit introduces students to some of the basic practical and conceptual tools in digital communications, regarding digital media culture, and digital work environments. In the digital tools training course, students will learn skills and gain hands-on experience with a range of digital publishing tools to build and curate a web platform with compelling, sharable content in order to become e-journalists. In the conceptual part of the course, the students will learn to familiarize with the issues, concepts, and research areas linked to the digital revolution, and understand the different ways in which it affects us as Internet users, citizens, and consumers. Together, we will analyse key readings and discuss them through contemporary case studies focusing on geo-localization, big data, methods of data collection online, algorithms, algorithm culture and software culture. Student will for instance look at the impact of algorithms on access and diversity of news on social media; they will understand what actually Big Data means and seize its influence on business, scientific research and public decision-making; they will address the impact of self-tracking devices on the life of people and analyse them in relation to issues of privacy, healthism and government control. Our focus, ultimately, will be on preparing you to work with digital media while critically engage with it.

Course Learning Outcomes

Familiarize with the main tools for creation of webpages.

Critically engage with and understand the digital tools used in class

Know the modern digital computer architecture

Know how to store and manipulate local and network file systems

Know how to build a webpage from scratch using HTML and CSS as well as using dedicated

software.

Become familiar with the issues, concepts, and research areas of digital media studies. Application of terms and concepts in critically engaging with digital media, their uses, and audiences.

General Education

Course Outline

Course Outline [subject to change]

Week & Dates	Topic
Week 1	Introduction to the Course
Mon Jan 21 (Feldman)	Introductions of people and topics, scheduling.
Thurs Jan 24 (Stojanov)	– Intro to Digital Technology – Using AUP data storage – Publishing web pages on AUP server – Basic HTML
Week 2	Mapping
Mon Jan 28	Maps & Power, GIS, Surveillance & Privacy
Thurs Jan 31	– Geo-localization – Embedding Google maps on your webpage – Hands-on exercise: introduce a google map on your page via address or latitude and longitude
Week 3	Making knowledge; Methods and Theories of Epistemology
Mon Feb 4	Quantitative versus qualitative methods: how we extract meaning from various kinds of “data.” What can and can’t be measured?
Thurs Feb 7	– Data acquisition – Data formats: unformatted text, numerical data

	– Data analysis and visualization – Excel, Google spreadsheets – Big Data
Week 4	Data everywhere
Mon Feb 11	Self-Tracking: quantified self, geolocation. Are we radiating data?
Thurs Feb 14	Data scraping
Week 5	Big Data, Small Data, Processing
Mon Feb 18	Big, small, structured, unstructured, semi-structured, ethics.
Thurs Feb 21	– Algorithms: a step by step procedure, how to do something (i.e. baking a cake) – Computer programs (“code”) implement algorithms using a specific programming language (Java, JavaScript, Python...) – Examples of program/code
Week 6	Algorithmic Thinking
Mon Feb 25	Data mining, algorithms, and electoral politics
Thurs Feb 28	A taste of Python
SPRING BREAK!	
Week 7	
Mon Mar 18	Midterm Exam
Thurs Mar 21	Dry run
Week 8	Big data and privacy
April 1	Privacy debates & ethics
April 4	Who can see your data? How can you protect it?
Week 9	Algorithms and governance/moral judgement
April 8	Algorithmic decision making, algorithmic policing
April 11	Where does the bias in Algorithms come?
Week 10	Algorithms and public spheres/discourse/echo chambers
April 15	Facebook, Cambridge Analytica, problems of homophily, 2016 US Elections
April 18	Working on projects in class
Week 11	[working week]
Mon April 22	NO CLASS – Easter Monday
Thurs April 25	Working on projects in class
Week 12	Software & Everyday Life
Mon April 29	Ubiquity, IOT, Smart(?)homes

Thurs May 2	Working on projects in class
Week 13	Artificial Intelligence
Mon May 6	AI & Labor, What is AI good for & when is it harmful?
Thurs May 9	READING DAYS
Final: Thurs May 16	FINAL EXAM – Presentations of papers & projects

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Course requirements and grading:

Reading Assignments/Participation-Attendance – 10 %

For Monday class:

- Students will give one short (about 10 mins) presentation on a reading of their choosing.
- Reading Responses or Write-Ups of Visits (200-400 words) will be due by 9am the day of class.

Mid-term exam – 20 %

In-class exam on the readings and the case studies explored in Monday class.

Dry Run Paper & Project – 20%

This dry run project will prepare you to your final project. In this paper, you will actually use the digital tools learnt in class to explore a subject of your choice linked to the issues discussed in class, as well as publish your work on the web – geo-localization, self-tracking, big data, algorithms, software.

Final Research Paper and accompanying web site (50%)

Undertake a detailed analysis (2000 words max) of a case study of your choice by using and extending your previous research. You will build a website including your research question, qualitative and quantitative data, analysis, and conclusion.

Other
