

Spring, 2018 Mapping and Data Visualization for the Ancient World

This course considers tools and methods for the effective communication of scholarly research through data-driven maps and the visualization of small and large datasets. By frequent hands-on assignments and demonstration of their work, students will gain confidence in using cloud-based tools and software that runs directly on their own computers. A constant focus will be the ability of such tools and software to import, manipulate and export data in standard formats and to enable sharing of the maps and visualizations that students create. While this is not a programming course, students will use the Python language throughout their work. Students will also gain expertise in data interchange formats such as the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON). Topics stressed over the course of the term will include the temporal component of spatial data as well as interoperability between data sets. Assigned readings will survey current approaches to the practice and theory of applying digital methods to historical and archaeological research and teaching. A particular outcome for students will be the ability to assess the relevance of both current and future tools for their own work. The majority of assignments will be drawn from the ancient world as ISAW defines it, though students with other interests can enroll. Students are encouraged to pursue their own research as part of the required final project. It is expected that students will bring their own computers to class. While there are no prerequisites, participants should be willing to commit considerable time to rapidly gaining the technical skills that will be presented in class.

Permission of instructor required.