

Digital History in the Global Village



Marshall McLuhan famously observed that communication networks with global reach and near-instantaneous speeds were collapsing both time and space to turn the world into a “Global Village.” Digital innovations from personal computers to smart phones and word processors to WhatsApp have created new interconnected media that have massively accelerated this trend. The localization of the world, however, has been neither even nor equitable. Some people and places have benefitted at the expense of others while putting up a front of revolutionary advancement for everyone. The Global Village in the Digital Age has involved not only flows of ideas across the world, but flows of bodies as well, as IT sector has tapped into transnational patterns of labor migration. In this course we will uncover the historical foundations of the global village and track its uneven development over the past seven decades along with its deeper historical roots.

We will learn this history by “doing” digital history using free and open source software and media. Coders are welcome, but no special computing skills are required beyond an adventurous spirit. All of the reading will be available electronically and open access where possible, keeping costs to a minimum.

Professor Rath is the Director of The Digital Arts and Humanities Initiative at UH and will be introducing the resources, opportunities, and support of the Initiative as part of the course.

See <http://www.hawaii.edu/arthurm/digital> for more information on the Initiative.