Michael J. Kramer
History 395-0-22
DIGITIZING FOLK MUSIC HISTORY
Day/Time: MW 3:30-4:50
Office Address: Harris Hall Room 212
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Maximum Enrollment: 15

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this research seminar, we examine the history of the US folk music revival through both conventional and digital modes of inquiry to probe what was at stake in the folk revival in relation to: American culture and politics; questions of race, class, gender, age, and region; and the strange workings of music-making, memory, and power. No previous digital or musical training is required for the course, just a willingness to engage with the material. Each student will be evaluated based on class participation, weekly digital mini-project experiments, presentations, and a final multimedia interpretive digital history project that is the multimedia equivalent of a 15-20 page analytic essay based on original research.

AREA OF CONCENTRATION: Americas

TEACHING METHOD: Seminar and digital work

EVALUATION METHOD: Class discussion, weekly digital history mini-assignments, final interpretive digital history multimedia project

GRADING BASIS: Student option

TENTATIVE READING LIST:
(.DO NOT ORDER BOOKS YET)
Articles, videos, audio on course website.

NOTES: No previous digital or musical training is required for the course.

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: Michael J. Kramer works at the interdisciplinary intersection of historical scholarship, the arts, and cultural criticism. He is the author of The Republic of Rock: Music and Citizenship in the Sixties Counterculture (Oxford University Press, 2013; paperback, 2017). His new historical research explores the relationship between technology and tradition in the US folk music revival from the early twentieth century to the present. He teaches at Northwestern University, where he co-directs NUDHL, the Northwestern University Digital Humanities Laboratory. He also works as a dramaturg and editor. He writes about history, the arts, politics, digital humanities, and other topics for numerous publications and blogs at michaeljkramer.net.