DIHU 406/ CULT 406: Digital Afterlives

Instructor: Daniel Keyes

Course Description: Have you ever wondered where something once easily accessible and abundant on the Web has gone to be replaced by Error 404? *Digital Afterlives: Archival Media Theories and Practices* explores digital abundance and quick ephemerality in the Canadian context. In terms of practice, students will receive hands on training in analogue-digital migration, webscraping, etc. while reflecting on the theoretical limits of archives and digital databases as instruments of power and knowledge exploring official and rogue archives curating 'orphaned' and decolonizing media.

Tentative Reading List:
At the course titles suggests, the readings for this course are derived from both theoretical and practical approaches to the archive; here is a short sample of tentative readings:

Achille Mbembe. 2002. "The Power of the Archive and Its Limits," in Refiguring the Archive, eds. Carolyn Hamilton, Verne Harris, Michele Pickover, Graeme Reid, and Razia Saleh. Boston: Kluwer Academic.
Briston, Heather. 2021. "Contracts, Intellectual Property and Privacy." The Digital Archives Handbook. Ed. Aaron D. Purcell, Rowman & Littlefield. 95-120.
Bruce, Caitlin F. 2016. "Tour 13: From Precarity to Ephemerality." Geohumanities, 2(2): 432-452.
Derrida, Jacques. Archive Fever.
Ketelaar, Eric. 2002. "Tacit Narratives: The Meanings of Archives," Archival Science 1 (2): 132-1XX.
Meden Jurji. 2022. Scratches and Glitches: Observations on Preserving and Exhibiting Cinema in the Early 21st Century. Columbia UP.
Steyerl, Hito. 2009. "In Defense of the Poor Image," e-flux, no. 10 (November 2009): https://www.e-flux.com/journal/10/61362/in-defense-of-the-poor-image/.
Tiwari, Sudha. 2019. "New Cinema and New Media: Hopes for Resurrection." South Asian Popular Culture 17 (1): 31-45.

Other: This course is cross listed between Cultural Studies and Digital Humanities so although on Workday your specific section appears small, the class size includes another section.