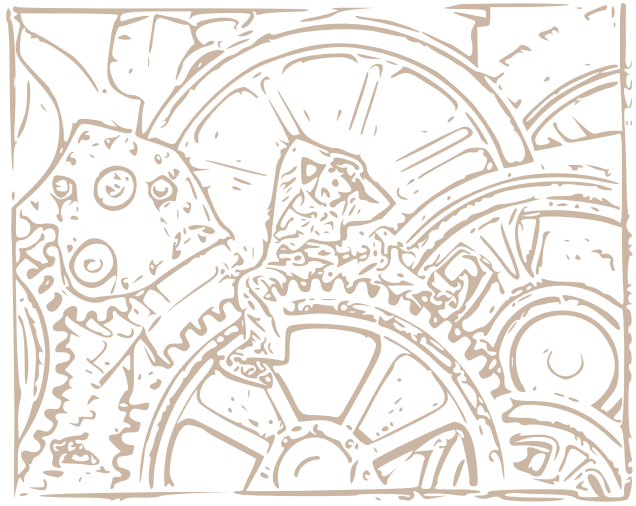
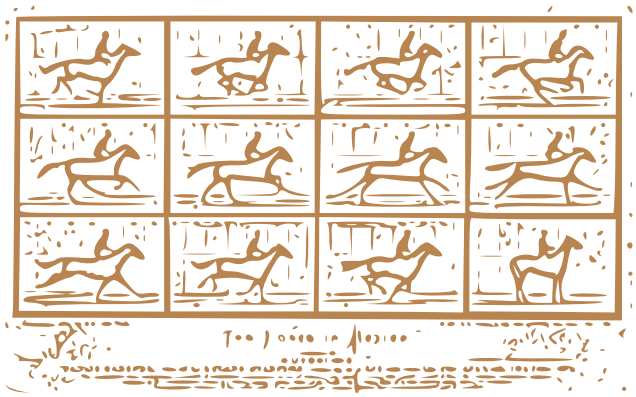
HIST 281

CREATIVE PROJECT





"This is not history"

This is a reflection of history translated into binary data, racing around a human-web of copper and silicon

The content that you are viewing is subject to visual alterations based on end-user-devices and settings, that affect size, dimensional ratios, color and other visual attributes. You may view this website on a monitor, television, mobile phone or tablet, and compare the variation in aesthetics, and its effect

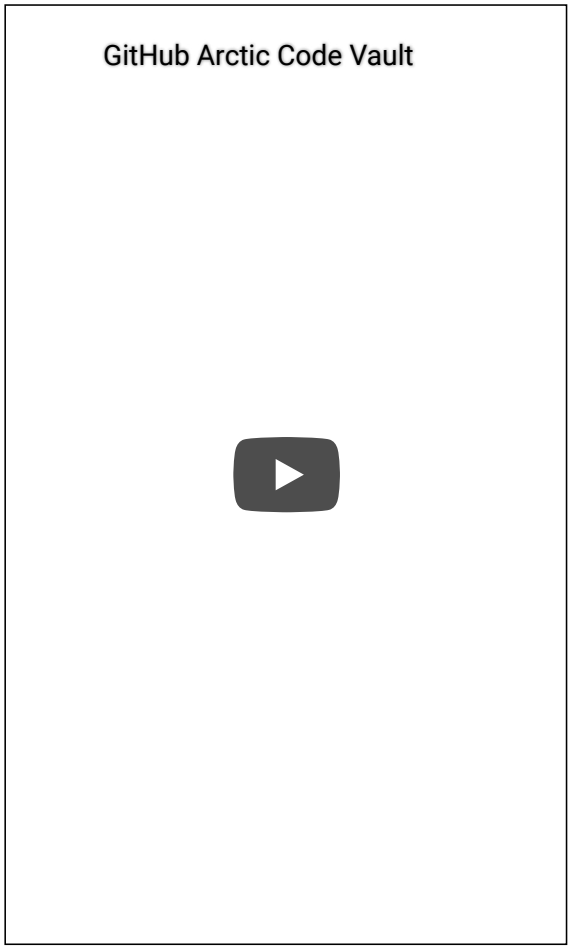
The content that you are viewing is subject to technical interpretation, as the source code is translated into digital data, electronically communicated to your personal-internet-device, re-translated into higher-level-programming-languages, and re-interpreted by your personal hardware and software.

In the future, through technological progression in hardware and software, this content is subject to unforeseen alterations, updates provided by the author and technical obsolescence

The software containing this webpage's content is archived, hosted and communicated by github.com

"Preserving open source software for future generations
The world is powered by open source software.
It is a hidden cornerstone of modern civilization, and the shared heritage of all humanity."

"On 02/02/2020 GitHub captured a snapshot of every active public repository. Those millions of repos were then archived to hardened film designed to last for 1,000 years, and stored in the GitHub Arctic Code Vault in a decommissioned coal mine deep beneath an Arctic mountain in Svalbard, Norway."
-https://archiveprogram.github.com/



The content of this website, as well as the open-source-code that supports it, is publicly available, here:
https://github.com/MikeG3/HIST281CreativeProject
The open source nature of this software, allows the public to contribute to it, in any way. For example, translating it to other languages, making it more accessible to visually impaired, or, editing it, as they see fit.
Usage, copy, modification, re-distribution and interaction with this software may be executed in ways that its creator can not even imagine. It was not until after the creation of this project that I realized, my earliest software projects, had been saved to film, and stored in a cave.
This project can be perceived as an implementation of software engineering, art, history, and/or many other things.

Will someone or something, in the distant future, find this?
When?
What condition, and format, will it arrive in?
What meaning and connection will it serve, to such an audience?

I would encourage anyone less familiar with software, to "right-click" on their browser, and click on "view page source" (Apple/Safari users can press Command + Option + U. Other devices require instructions that can probably be found online) This will reveal the HTML-file-content that your browser used to display this website.
Often, it is only read by software developers, and many layers of electronics. Among the text, tags, links and computer code that you see, will be a hidden message, at the top of the page.

European-Jewish folklore has tales about the foolish inhabitants of the city of Chelm. One story describes the wisest leaders of their community, attempting to capture moonlight in a barrel, that is reflected off of the water contained inside of it, in order to save it for the future.

The story continues to give lessons, beyond the time of its origin. People continue to capture, preserve, and re-observe the light lost to history, through film, digital mediums, and emerging

("אור הירח" : "moonlight" - translated and grammatically conjugated in the picture)
"photo credit: Illustration from F. Halperin's 'Khakhme Khelm,' Warsaw, 1926."
Image and quote from: https://www.timesofisrael.com/the-serious-history-of-a-comical-town/

technologies, of modern times. These efforts are gradual advancements, from the attempts of the Chelmites.

Continuing with the moonlight analogy, the light that reflects off the surface of water, is not only distorted by the water, it reveals a single point's perspective of the light source. Consequently, the perception of the light depends on the position of both the barrel, and the observer.

Film in history requires critical analysis that considers the lessons demonstrated by the city of Chelm

The frame below, should be perfectly synchronized, with the data provided by the government of Canada, found here:
https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html

Although there are ethical, moral and legal ramifications, the statistics can be hacked, faked, or altered, in various ways and with various methods.

For demonstrative purposes, I will provide software that I created, but abandoned as of August 2020, to provide a similar statistical web-service, seen below the authentic Health Canada Map

The first phase of the software development process, starting the user-interface, to interact with the map. It currently displays the name of the provinces and their population.

The next phase of development, was too collect and calculate data, and display it accordingly. Because the project was abandoned, the data that the software provides visually, is obviously different than the official data provided by Health Canada. All of the categories for each province, has its initial value of zero.

Count of **total cases** of COVID-19 in Canada as of April 20, 2022

Last data update 2022-04-21 9:02 EDT

ℹ Hover over provinces and territories to see total cases, active cases, recovered cases, tests performed or deaths in Canada over time. Click the play button to animate the map.

The count of total cases of COVID-19 in **Canada** was **3,664,204** as of April 20, 2022

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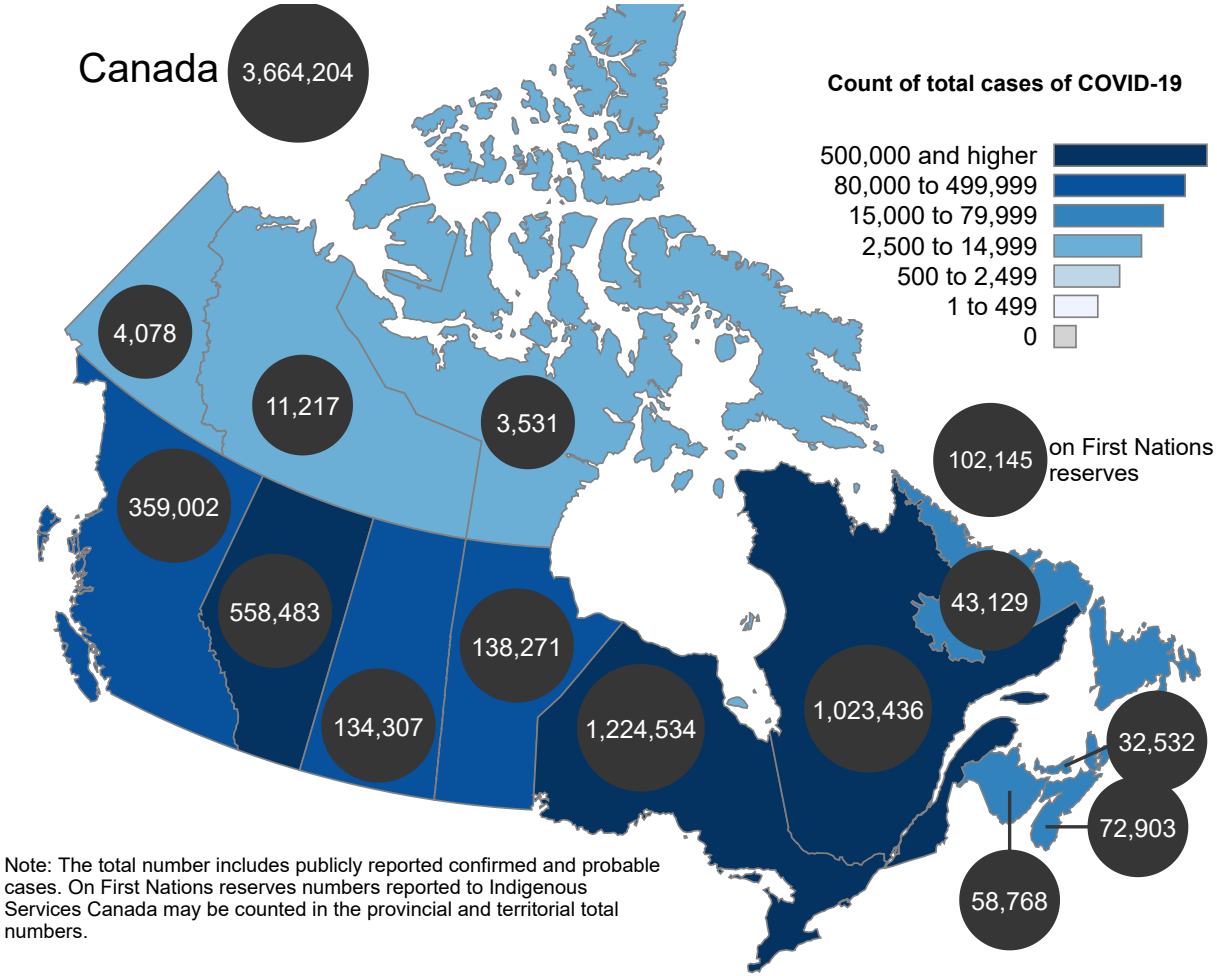
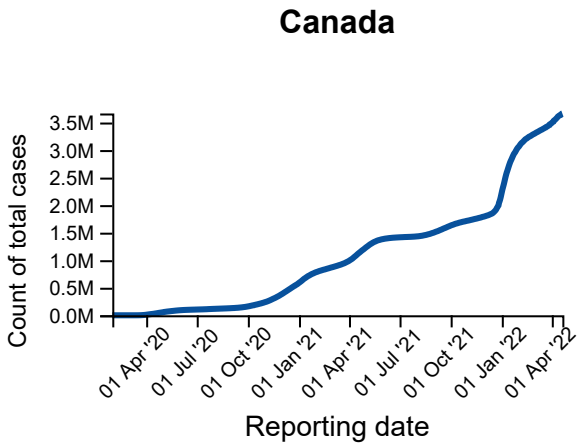


Note: The total number includes publicly reported confirmed and probable cases. On First Nations reserves numbers reported to Indigenous Services Canada may be counted in the provincial and territorial total numbers.



▶ Play .csv

This information is based on data our provincial and territorial partners published on cases, deaths, and testing daily, and are current as of the day they are published. Today's numbers are current as of April 20, 2022. For the most up to date data for any province, territory or city, please visit their website. The number of cases or deaths reported on previous days may differ slightly from those on the provincial and territorial websites as these websites may update historic case and death counts as new information becomes available.

WARNING: FAKE DATA BELOW

WARNING

FAKE DATA BELOW

Corona Virus Map

Canada
Population: 35151728
Total Infections: 0
Current Infections: 0
Recoveries: 0
Deaths: 0

Software published here: https://mikeg3.github.io/CoronaVirusTracker/
Source Code published here: https://github.com/MikeG3/CoronaVirusTracker

Data, statistics, and the way they are presented visually, have social, political and economic ramifications. Statistics are never presented in a vacuum, they always have context. They can be presented as cold and neutral, or they can be an element of a narrative. Regardless of their format,

any observation of statistics are enhanced by the same audio-visual effects that are used in film and visual art.

The images, software and videos collected online, were carefully selected, as not to violate intellectual property regulations nor academic regulations. The project itself is a demonstration of how these concerns are subject to evolving interpretations.
For a list of references, please see the attached document, or visit this link: Bibliography

The images have been interpreted and converted into numerical data. The images were animated using web-programming languages; HTML, CSS and JavaScript. The other animations, including the black and purple bars, and the flashing Warning text in the "Online Covid Statistics" section, were animated using the same tools.

Aa a final undergraduate endeavor, I would like to thank and dedicate this website to the incredible students and faculty, that have enriched my life so much in my academic experience. Especially the professors that have dedicated their careers to the pursuit of

knowledge. After more than a decade, I have continually had the great fortune of meeting such people that have never failed to impress and inspire me.