



---

## SOCL 1255: Sociology of the Family

Linda Blum

### Knight Lab Timeline

---

#### KnightLab Timeline Info

- KnightLab Timeline site: <http://timeline.knightlab.com/>
- KnightLab support forum:  
<https://knightlab.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/201567526-TimelineJS>
- Tutorial video: <https://vimeo.com/143407878>
- Link to the copy of the template spreadsheet for Timeline:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pHBvXN7nmGkiG8uQSUB82eNlnL8xHu6kydzH-eguHQ/copy>
- Link to the official example spreadsheet (from the Timeline website):  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1xuY4uplooEeszZ\\_lCmeNx24eSFWe0rHe9ZdqH2xqVNk/pubhtml](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1xuY4uplooEeszZ_lCmeNx24eSFWe0rHe9ZdqH2xqVNk/pubhtml)
- Link to an example spreadsheet that utilizes various features:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SOskelXtiJuFnKbYvl2bRbBSOYdHD3Ogrzs1xejIn4/edit?usp=sharing>

KnightLab Timeline is a user-friendly web browser tool that allows people to create interactive timelines. Each marker on the timeline can present text, images, videos, and soundbites. The goal is to tell a story with these markers, guiding your audience through a temporal narrative.

#### Components of an effective Timeline:

- Strong, **coherent content**
- A **clear series of events and periods** (pick stories with an overt chronological narrative!)
- An overarching **theme** relating the events to one other
- **Media elements** that help illustrate and support the narrative

#### Questions to Consider

- What **story** am I trying to tell? What is the **message** I want to convey?
- What are the **main events, processes, points, and periods** in time that I want to highlight?
- Who is my **audience**?
  - How can I most effectively write for this audience?
  - What kinds of information does that audience need?
- How can I best tell this story?
  - What kinds of **media** will I need? (photographs, text, maps, videos, etc.)
  - Which items will require additional detail or **context**?
  - How can I integrate a **balance** of text, images, and other media forms?

## Digital Integration Teaching Initiative

Schedule a meeting: <http://calendly.com/diti-nu>



Northeastern University  
*NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*

### Timeline Examples

- Whitney Houston 1963-2012: Telling the life of Whitney Houston through key dates and events
- Revolutionary User Interfaces: Tracing the development of computers and their increased accessibility, showing the influences of various people and agencies
- The decline of IRS Nonprofit regulation: Following the relationship between the IRS and other political and economic entities (the timeline is embedded in the website; scroll down to find it)
- Professor Blum's example timeline

---

Find this handout and more at: <https://bit.ly/diti-summer2021-blum>

Questions? Contact us! [nulab.info@gmail.com](mailto:nulab.info@gmail.com)