**HIST 300-01**

**Digital History: Foodways and the Forking of History**

**Dr. Elizabeth Hopwood**

**Assignment:** Practices in Digital Scholarship: Foodways Exhibits

**What**: A digital collection and analysis of primary source historical documents

A primary goal of this course is to think carefully about how histories are written. Our readings show the different frameworks, filters, and modes that history has been written through, and we’ve discussed how such mediums change (and sometimes challenge) our understanding of what history means and how it gets written. Another goal of this course is to consider how the digital affords us multimodal ways of composing that go beyond a static essay. For this project, you will create a collection of materials (including primary sources, visual representations, metadata, and narrative) related to a foodways-related theme that you will choose. You may choose to focus on a single food or ingredient (cake, for instance, or candy, or salt) or you may choose a more thematic topic (such as domesticity, gender, and food; maritime and shipping; Civil War and food, etc.).You might think of your collection as a way to curate materials that are interesting to you, and to teach others something about them and how they connect together. That is to say, you will think about both the individual significance of the item as well as the larger story they tell when we view them together. In class we will discuss how to locate primary sources.

* Using http://omeka.org/, a platform for building digital collections, we will work together to build our collections and create exhibits. Your exhibit will include:
* 10 historical primary source documents related to your theme. These may be periodicals, excerpts of novels or narratives, maps, images, recipes, etc.
* Rich metadata for each item, including a description of what each source is and how you’d like viewers to read it as part of the larger exhibit
* An introductory headnote that not only situates viewers to your exhibit but explains its context and offers a scholarly argument about the meaning and meaningfulness of the collection

Note that we will work together on our Omeka collections in our Wednesday labs, although you will also be expected to work on it (including locating primary sources and writing the analysis) on your own. Go here for our “Getting Started with Omeka” lab materials:

<http://elizabethhopwood.us/fall16foodways/omeka/>

Research Guide: <http://libguides.luc.edu/foodways>