



January 2019



Meet the Faculty: Dr. Jess Morrissette

Dr. Jess Morrissette studies politics and popular culture here at Marshall University. His research in recent years has included work on leveraging fictional depictions of vampires to teach Marxist thought to undergraduates, analyzing the video game *Papers, Please* through the lens of Max Weber's work on modern bureaucracies, and examining the similarities between the narratives surrounding fictional zombies and "real world" discourses concerning terrorism and nuclear proliferation.

He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Georgia in 2007, after completing his M.A. at Virginia Tech and B.A. at King University. His writing has appeared in *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Game Studies*, *Studies in Popular Culture*, *European Political Science Review*, and elsewhere.

This spring, Morrissette is teaching a special topics course titled Politics and Video Games for the first time. This course explores the power dynamics and politics at play in video games, the video game industry, and gaming culture. This course engages

with video games as artistic works and literary texts, as well as considering the broader political forces that shape gaming both as an industry and hobby. As such, relationships of power and authority are at the center of the course, along with critical examinations of the history of video games and the culture of fandom that has arisen around them.

Morrissette is also an amateur game designer and creator of The Video Game Soda Machine Project (<http://vgsmpj.com>), a site where he's attempting to catalog screenshots of every soda vending machine that has ever appeared in a video game. The collection currently features over 2,500 soda machines spanning more than 1,500 games across virtually every genre and platform. The site has received coverage from NPR, Slate, CBC Radio, Waypoint, *Game Informer*, and numerous other media outlets.



DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Visit us at: www.marshall.edu/dh/

For more information on our program,
email us at:
dh@marshall.edu

Director of Digital Humanities:
Dr. Kristen Lillis



Featured Student Project: Emily Brammer

Emily Brammer is a junior digital humanities minor who has been working with Clio throughout the past year. Clio is a website and application that allows users to learn about historical and cultural sites around them. Emily has created and edited entries ranging from Fort Lee, New Jersey, to Los Angeles, California. In the spring, she focused on sites relating to film history (her field of interest). More recently, she has been writing about locations in her home state of Ohio.

Film history and Ohio intersected when Emily worked on one of her favorite subjects: Gatewood, the Gallipolis, Ohio, home of writer Oscar Odd McIntyre. McIntyre

was the most widely-read columnist of his time, famous for bringing tales of New York and celebrities to small town America, but he has since been largely forgotten. Emily found it fascinating to learn about a man from her area who hobnobbed with the likes of Charlie Chaplin and Ernest Hemingway during the 1920s and 1930s.

Emily is a History and English double major who is also minoring in film studies. Her favorite part about studying digital humanities has been learning about new ways to present information, whether it be an Adobe Spark page, a video essay, or a listing on Clio. After obtaining a master's degree in communications, she hopes to use these new skills to educate others about the topics and causes that interest her.

Clio Looking for Interested Interns

Self-motivated students interested in Appalachia, history, digital content, and research should consider an internship opportunity with Clio!

Clio is both an app and a website that maps and stores entries on thousands of cultural and historical landmarks. Created by Marshall University's own Dr. David Trowbridge, Clio is serving as a public guide and major collaborative research

project, which has been gaining national attention with recognition from both the MLA and the AHA.

Students would be offered 3 credit hours of History (or internship/independent study) and receive a \$2000 stipend for an average of 10 hours per week during the semester. This internship opportunity is available for students of all majors that are dedicated self-starters. Clio is particularly interested in students that have a talent for research and composition.

Interested students should contact Dr. Trowbridge (david.trowbridge@marshall.edu) for more information.

Not available for the Spring semester, but still interested? Clio is looking for interns for the Summer and Fall as well, so keep them in mind for future internship work and collaborative projects!

Clio
*Discover History
All Around You*
Non-profit and
free for everyone
Learn more at
www.theclio.com
New entries & tours added daily by
universities, libraries & historical societies.