CMS.633/833

Digital Humanities: Topics, Techniques, and Technologies

Fall 2018, Tuesdays, 2 – 5 pm, Room: 5-217

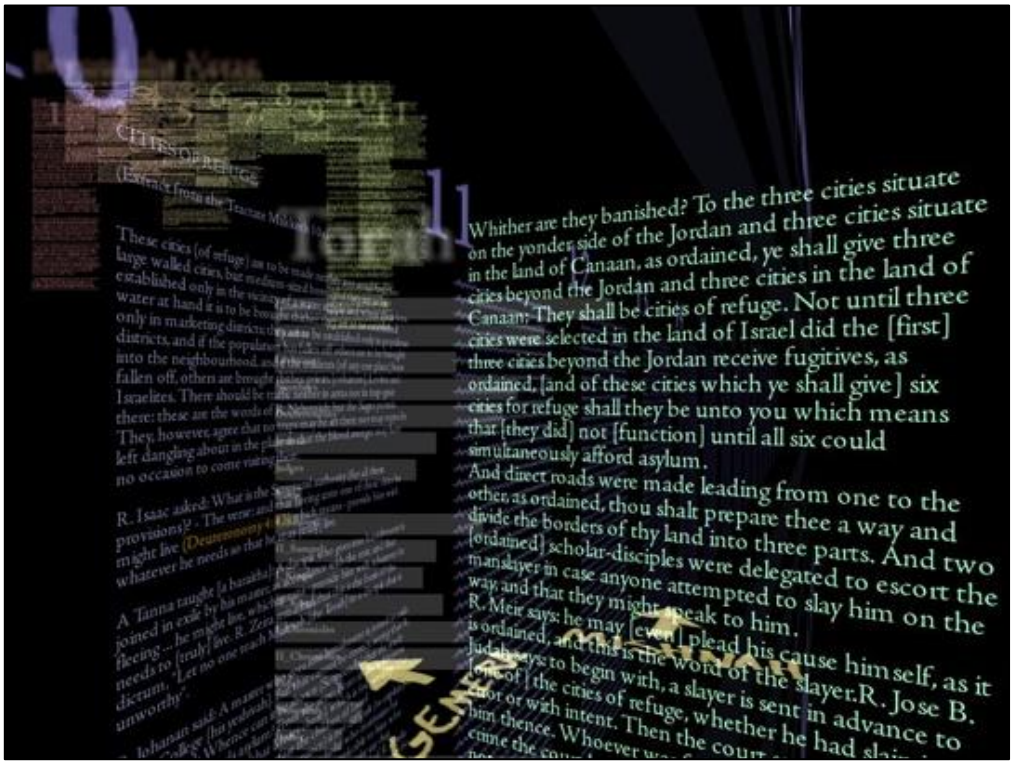
Instructor:

Kurt Fendt, Room 14N-421, office hours: Mondays 3-4 PM or by appointment, email: fendt@mit.edu

TA:

Ben Silverman, email: bsilverm@mit.edu, Consultation hour: Tuesdays, 11-12, Bldg. 12 Foyer next to bldg. 16 & 26

Website: http://cms633.github.io
Stellar Site: https://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/CMS/fa18/CMS.633
Annotation Studio: http://mit.annotationstudio.org



David Small's *Talmud Project*

Course description

Examines theory and practice of using computational methods in the emerging field of digital humanities. Develops an understanding of key digital humanities concepts such as data representation, digital archives, information visualization, and user interaction through the study of contemporary research in conjunction with working on real-world projects for scholarly, educational, and public needs. Students create prototypes, write design papers, and conduct user studies. Some programming and design experience is helpful but not required. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

Format and Requirements

This class will consist of reading discussions, demonstrations of tools and techniques, and hands-on project work time. Occasionally, we will hear from guest speakers who work in museums, libraries, and research settings. Students are expected to participate in class discussions on readings. Additionally, students will be asked to annotate readings using the tool Annotation Studio (http://mit.annotationstudio.org). Small teams will be formed to work on a range of smaller projects throughout the semester. The final project will be selected mid-semester and will have to be completed by the end of the term.

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

- Final project (40%), including a design paper and a prototype
- Short projects (20%)
- Presentations and project updates (15%)
- Class participation (15%)
- Annotation Studio (10%)

Class attendance is required. Unexcused absences result in a lower grade. There will be no final exam in the class.

Avoid *plagiarizing.* **Plagiarism** is the use of another's intellectual work without acknowledgment. Full acknowledgment for all information obtained from sources outside the classroom must be clearly stated in all written work submitted. All ideas, arguments, and direct phrasings taken from someone else's work must be identified and properly footnoted. Use quotation marks to identify all sources of wording that are not yours. Identify sources of ideas with appropriate footnoting. Plagiarism receives an F in the subject, the instructor is required to forward the case to the Committee on Discipline. See http://cmsw.mit.edu/writing-and-communication-center/avoiding-plagiarism/ for more information.

The WCC at MIT **(Writing and Communication Center**) offers *free* one-on-one professional advice from lecturers (who all have advanced degrees and who are all are published writers) about all types of academic, creative, and professional writing and about all aspects of oral presentations (including practicing your presentations). We help you think your way more deeply into your topic, no matter what department or discipline you are in. The WCC is located in Kendall Square (E18-223, 50 Ames Street). To register with our online scheduler and to make appointments, go to https://mit.mywconline.com/ . To access the WCC's many pages of advice about writing and oral presentations, go to http://cmsw.mit.edu/writing-and-communication-center/ . The Center's core hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; evening hours vary by semester–check the online scheduler for up-to-date hours.

HyperStudio at MIT

This class is offered by members of MIT's HyperStudio – Center for Digital Humanities, one of the research groups within Comparative Media Studies/Writing. HyperStudio explores the potential of new media technologies for the enhancement of education and research in the humanities. HyperStudio's work focuses on questions about the integration of technology into humanities curricula within the broader context of scholarly inquiry and educational practice. HyperStudio conceptualizes, develops, and deploys innovative media applications in close collaboration with scholars, educators, students, and developers.

Class schedule (preliminary)

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
September 11	**Introduction to Digital Humanities** Sample DH projects DH Exercise: Historic Theater Register Pages	**Assignments:** Readings (on Stellar & some on Annotation Studio): • Read "A Short Guide to the *Digital_Humanities* (p.121-125) in *Digital_Humanities* • Read *Digital_Humanities*, chapter 1 (p. 3-26) Group project: CFRP prototype (see handout)
September 18	**Humanities data: The Comédie-Française Registers Project I** From written records to humanities data Working with actual CF data Discussion of Final Projects	**Assignments:** • Annotate Vannevar Bush, "As We May Think" in Annotation Studio (http://mit.annotationstudio.org) • Daniel Rosenberg and Anthony Grafton, *Cartographies of Time*, Chapter 1: "Time in Print" • Further develop your group's CFR project with actual data, using tools of your choice.
September 25	**Data visualization (mapping time)** Representation of time	**Readings:** J. Baker et al., Critical Theory + Empirical Practice: "The Archive" as Bridge, dh2018 • **Johanna Drucker,** Performative Materiality and Theoretical Approaches to Interface, 2013 **Tools:** Diverse basic visualization tools using events data from the US-Iran project • TimeMapper • SIMILE Timeline • D3 or other tools
October 2	**Digital Archives, Interfaces, and Curation** Guest Speaker: Gabrielle Linelle Defining Final Projects	**Readings:** • David J. Bodenhamer, The Potential of Spatial Humanities; pp. 14-31; • David J. Bodenhamer, The Potential of Spatial Humanities; pp. 14-31;
October 9	**Columbus Day Vacation**	**No class**
October 16	**Mapping Literature** **Spatial mapping using of Herman Melville's texts** Final Project Pitches Guest Speaker: **Wyn Kelley: MIT Literature**	**Readings:** • Johanna Drucker: "Humanities Approaches to Graphical Display" • Edward Tufte, *Envisioning Information*, "Color and Information" **Tools:** • CartoDB • Google Fusion Tables/Maps/Earth Pro • Mapbox, TileMill, etc. **Assignments:** • Work on Final Project pitch • Create dataviz addressing time + space

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
October 23	**Data visualization** Selection/refinement of Final Projects	**Readings:** • Lev Manovich, "The Poetics of Augmented Space" • Jane Alexander, Jake Barton, and Caroline Goeser, "Transforming the Art Museum Experience: Gallery One," http://bit.ly/1iqN2nE **Assignment:** Space explorations
October 30	**Augmented space**	**Readings:** • Christina Kreps: Curatorship as Social Practice • Jana Macalik: The Museum as Discursive Space **Assignment:** • Curate a digital exhibition using Google Open Gallery or Omeka • Create first project sketches
November 6	**Curation:** From museum curation to digital curation **Guest speaker:** Lynette Ross **Final Projects:** Presentation of Design Sketches, initial technology implementations	**Readings:** • Human-centered Design Toolkit, "Hear," pp. 29-68 • Jeffrey M. Binder, "Alien Reading: Text Mining, Language Standardization, and the Humanities", in: Debates in the Digital Humanities, 2016 edition http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/debates/text/69 **Assignment:** Work with text analysis tools and digital texts (see assignment) **Tools:** • Stanford Named Entity Recognizer (NER) • Voyant Tools • JSTOR Lab Tools
November 13	**Text as Data** Methods of textual analysis **Design process:** Prototyping and wireframing **Final Projects:** Short write-up of project progress, brief in-class presentation	**Readings:** • Wolfgang Ernst (2013), Digital Memory and the Archive • Matt Kirschenbaum, "So the Colors Cover the Wires": Interface, Aesthetics, and Usability • Dan Brown, "Communicating Design" • Shawn Medero, "Paper Prototyping" • Ann Blair, "Information Overload: Then and Now" **Assignment:** TBD **Tools:** • Balsamiq

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
November 20	**Interface Design Approaches** Guest Speaker: TBA	**Readings:** • J. Drucker: From Digital Humanities to Speculative Computing **Assignment:** Final Project: Draft of digital prototype Tools: • Stanford NER, Voyant, JSTOR Labs
November 27	**Final project in-class work time**, Presentation of digital prototype, refinement of prototype, brief presentation & feedback in class	**Assignment:** Written summary of project progress, work on Digital Prototype
December 4	**Final project in-class work time** Presentation of prototypes (dry run)	**Assignment:** • Draft of final paper
December 11	**Final project in-class work time**	**Assignment:** • Final project Presentation and Design Document due