Gothic Colors

Speaking Notes

**Slide 1: Title**

**Slide 2: Fuseli’s *The Nightmare***

Before we tell you about our project, we’d like you to look at this painting: What strikes you about it? What does it show? What does it mean?

John Henry Fuseli, The Nightmare, 1781, oil painting

Influenced visual arts & literature in the Romantic period (late C18, early C19)

Iconic representation of the visual and thematic aesthetic of Gothic literature, which exploded onto the literary scene in Britain in the 1790s

Colour is important: blacks, dark reds, crimson, yellow, white, peach, grey, purple

Contrast between dark shadows and pale figure

**Slide 3: Agenda**

**Slide 4: Introductions**

**Slide 5: What is DH?**

The Humanities is a field of scholarship concerned with studying humans, what we make and do. (History, Anthropology, Greek and Roman Studies, Language and Literature, English, Art History, Performing Arts)

DH involves using computers to do this type of research.

It also involves studying digital technologies as cultural projects, things that humans make and use

Examples

**Pedagogy**: e.g., using digital technologies in humanities classrooms Methodology: e.g., concordances list every use of a given word in a corpus, e.g, how many times the word “monster” appears across all the works by Mary Shelley (the author of Frankenstein). Twenty years ago, a concordance was created by hand, and was incredibly time consuming. Now, all you need is a digital corpus and an application with a search function.

**Materiality**: Creating digital archives is one of the core activities of the digital humanities: digitizing medieval manuscripts, creating digital repositories of rare or fragile books: Internet Archive, Google Books. We also transform materials in order to study them differently: a physical codex into a .txt file, for instance. This creates new objects for us to study: what’s the difference between this book as a physical object and this book as a .txt file? How does its meaning change?

**Theory**: Theories about new media and how we use and interact with them are essential now that they are such as core part of our lives.

**Access**: The potential of digital technologies for making information openly accessible, e.g., I study some books that exist in one copy, located in the Corvey library in Germany. I can access digitized versions of these books online, any time I want. Foregrounds issues of equity, too, and ethics of access: access to such resources is often costly, and should all information be openly accessible?