

DIGITAL HUMANITIES (ENG 392ST):

DH FINAL PROJECT GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW:

For your final project, your team will design and develop a digital humanities project during the course of the semester that in some way contests oppressive power structures and/or makes visible, amplifies, or recovers that which has gone undervalued.

Your team will consist of 3-4 people, and you will work collaboratively to propose a DH project that fits the scope of this class and the interests of your group members.

Your project should also contribute to the critical turn in DH: how will your project play a role in contributing to a more equitable society by the choices you will make regarding tools, methods, and content that it chooses to make visible, recover, and/or amplify?

Check out these interesting [DH projects](#) to help inspire your own unique project. For the course-long project, you'll propose a project of your own making, demonstrating your project's connection to the ideas, methods, and tools we have explored in class. I'll discuss the details of final projects with each group during various scheduled meeting times, one of which will involve your group presenting its progress on the project (November 20th).

GUIDELINES:

As you select a topic for this project, your project should be rooted in your interests, experiences, and/or communities. It should be substantive enough to keep you busy through the remainder of the semester, but not so big that you find yourself overwhelmed by the various tasks you'll need to complete. For example, transcribing a single letter and posting it on Wix would be far too simple for a project of this size and scope. On the other hand, attempting to map pending evictions in Poughkeepsie and creating a searchable exhibit on Omeka may be a good fit--unless you can't find appropriate data and then you'll have to pivot your project to make it doable. Find a realistic option that challenges you but doesn't break you or your group members. When you encounter an obstacle, overcome it, or adjust your project's design.

During the proposal phase and throughout the project, I'll help you determine what is and isn't doable during the time we have available to work on this assignment. Whichever tools you use, your team must publish your finished project on the Internet by the end of the semester.

During the last few weeks of classes, each group will have 20 minutes to share their projects with the class. *You should formulate a polished visual presentation — slide presentation, website tour, etc. and it should be an opportunity for you to solicit peer and instructor feedback before your final projects are due on December 8th.*

Your final submission will include all of the materials that you are required to produce under the Project Milestones (see below), along with a link to your finished project. One team member is responsible for uploading your final project to iLearn by 2 PM on December 8th. Each team member should upload a Word Doc that contains an original, critical essay on your project.

The tools you'll use for your final project will vary, but recommended tools include:

- [Voyant](#)
- [Timeline JS](#)
- [Neatline](#)
- [Kumu](#)
- [Omeka](#)
- [Scalar](#)
- [Carto](#)
- [Google My Maps](#)
- [More](#) and [more](#) tools

You might think of an exhibit that could combine a few tools like an Omeka exhibit with Neatline plug in, or a Carto storytelling map with images and quantitative visualizations.

Critical Essay

In addition to the collaborative project component of this assignment, individually, you will produce a reflective critical essay about your project. This 5-7 page essay will include:

- A guiding question that expresses something you really want to know that drives your research and project forward
- A thesis statement that makes a claim about what your project accomplishes (or attempts to accomplish). This thesis should include rhetorical techniques, critical discussion of the media choices you made, and a connection to the ideological/power system underpinnings of your project.

- Fully developed discussion of what you created, why, through what methods, media, and data, exploring the practical and ethical reasons for those choices.
- A thoughtful examination of audience (intended and actual) and reception (intended and actual)
- An academically styled integration of research with at least 3 sources from class cited
- Additional research
- A meaningful connection to a data set
- A reflective component that speaks to
 - Strengths and weaknesses of your choices
 - Lessons learned from your experience building a DH project
 - Possible further avenues to explore. If you were going to take this further, what would be effective for advancing your goals?

PROJECT MILESTONES:

- **Proposal** (Friday, October 2nd) – 3-4 pages outlining the scope of your project, what tool(s) you plan to use, and what contribution your project will make to the field of DH and to improving socio-cultural equity. Your proposal should also include a plan of work, which outlines weekly goals and meeting times. (Refer to the Proposal guidelines at the end of this document).
- **Meeting with me** (Week of October 5th or October 12th) – your group will meet with me for approximately 20 minutes.
- **Progress Report** (Friday, November 20th) – your 3-4 page progress report will be a refined version of your original proposal, including an agreement of what each member of the group will contribute to the project and a plan of work, which outlines the goals of the project and how you anticipate achieving these goals. Your progress report should also include sections on ethics and data collection. (Refer to the Proposal/Project Report guidelines at the end of this document.)
- **Final Project Presentations & Conferences** (Week of November 16th & November 30th) – (Wednesday, December 8th by 2 p.m.) approximately 20-minute presentation in which each member of the group plays a significant role.

- **Upload Final Project to iLearn** (Wednesday, December 8th by 2 p.m.). Your final submission should include a link to your group project, presentation, group and self assessment, and individual critical essays

DIGITAL HUMANITIES FINAL PROJECT –

PROPOSAL/PROGRESS REPORT GUIDELINES:

Project Name: Select something descriptive that will be used for all future communication about the project.

Team Members: List the names of all members of the project and the roles of each team member.

Project Background: Demonstrate that you've done some research and thinking about the context and execution of this project. You might integrate background research that justifies your project choice and/or point to comparable/aspirational digital projects.

Purpose: Write a concise summary of what you intend to achieve with the project.

Project Goals: List all of the outcomes the project must achieve to be considered complete.

Required Tools: What tools are you planning to use? How do you plan to use the DH tools you selected for your project?

Ethics & Data Collection: What data will you need to collect? What are aspects of this data's creation, collection, and display that you'll consider in your project? How do group members identities/standpoints relate to this data collection and related bodies?

Plan of Work: This should include a timeline for the project, which includes deadlines for activities required to complete the project. Note who will complete each task and make sure the workload is balanced. If necessary, also include what will not be included in the scope of your project.

**** Your Proposal and Progress Report should follow the above guidelines. Your Progress Report will be a more refined, specific version of your Proposal.****

INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUE OF YOUR GROUP PROJECT (*Please discuss the following in your individual critique*):

- **Challenges:** What challenges did your group experience? How did you work through these issues?
- **Group dynamic:** How well did your group interact during working sessions and during the presentation?
- **Quality of information:** Were you satisfied with the data you found and presented? Did you accomplish the goals you set out for yourself? Did your teammates contribute equally?
- **Tools:** Were you satisfied with the tools you used for your project? Did they enhance your project and your presentation?
- **Overall project and presentation effectiveness:** Were you satisfied with the overall effectiveness of your project and presentation? Why or why not?