Digital Humanities, HIST 209L-901, Spring 2021

Preliminary Syllabus [Updated 12/28, 2020]

Marist College, School of Liberal Arts, Professor Flemming

Professor

Clare Flemming, M.S., C.A., M.A.

Project Archivist, Marist College Archives and Special Collections

Adjunct Professor, Marist College School of Liberal Arts

Email: clare.flemming@marist.edu

Phone: 845-575-6250

Office: Library Room 131, Archives and Special Collections

Remote Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Digital Humanities (DH) allow students to explore how digital technologies enhance our understanding of history, literature, philosophy, religion, our cultures, and ourselves. Through the use and development of critical thinking skills, students will learn how to engage with digital media, and they will be introduced to digital techniques and tools for research, analysis, and publication. Students will come to understand what the Humanities are (both traditional and digital) and how humanities disciplines are transformed into digital humanities projects.

Each student will gain experience with hands-on, creative digital work, and will have the opportunity to build digital projects solo or in a paired/remote setting. The projects will allow students to speak to their interests in the Liberal Arts by experimenting with text analysis, mapping, timelines, and networks.

Students will learn through readings and discussion that there is a darker side to digital humanities with regard to social media, "smart" devices, corporate control, lack of privacy, and related issues.

COVID Note: Blended Synchronous Course Format

This class is a Blended Synchronous course, meaning it employs a model to reduce student density in the classroom and maintain social distancing precautions owing to the COVID-19 global pandemic. All class sessions will be held synchronously, and all students will attend sessions Mondays and Wednesdays 5:00 pm-6:05 pm. Students can expect to be present in the classroom once per week. Additionally, some Saturday sessions are required, which will be ironed out in Week 01.

I will divide students into two groups, A and B. Even if you are staying entirely remote, you will see your name in a Group (for logistical purposes). Note: Groups are subject to change, but for Week 01 they remain as listed here.

MONDAYS, 5:00-6:05 pm, Group A will attend class in the Library Room 303, while Group B attends remotely. Circumstances may require learning be entirely remote; be prepared and please be flexible.

WEDNESDAYS, 5:00-6:05 pm, Group B will attend class in the Library Room 303, while Group A attends remotely. Circumstances may require learning be entirely remote; be prepared and please be flexible.

SATURDAYS, 5:00-6:05 pm, dates to be determined: All students to meet remotely (some Saturday sessions are required, time and dates to be discussed in Week 01)

Finally, our semester begins February 15 and concludes May 28, 2021. Our first two weeks shall be entirely remote. Beginning Monday March 01, we shall begin the Blended Synchronous mode with Groups A and B alternating in-class/remote sessions.

Course Goals and Objectives

- 1. Explore a broad spectrum of perspectives on the digital humanities
- 2. Engage with a variety of digital humanities tools in order to choose the most appropriate technology to facilitate different work in different situations
- 3. Develop familiarity with a range of digital humanities projects, as well as the ability to evaluate the tools and methods involved in creating those projects
- 4. Become more thoughtful, critical, and reflective users of digital tools, technologies, and spaces by understanding that all technologies are complex, socially situated, and political tools through which humans make meaning
- 5. Identify resources for digital humanities community and assistance at Marist and beyond
- 6. Critically discuss digital humanities projects in light of current methods and theoretical approaches to the field
- 7. Explain how digital humanities methods and practices are applied in different disciplines
- 8. Contribute to lively, thoughtful conversations in class sessions to engage fellow students, guest lecturers, and your professor
- 9. Plan, develop, and present an original digital humanities research project
- 10. Understand the ramifications of the digital environment, including negative aspects of social media, and how a handful of massive corporations aggregate our data to monetize our behavior

Grading Scale (%)

Α	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89?
В	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
С	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	65-69
D	60-64
F	0-59

Course Requirements

Category	Name	Туре	Grade Value	Due Date
Assignment #1	How Did They Make That?	Essay	20%	09/14
Assignment #2	Analysis of a DH Project	Essay	20%	10/07
Exam	DH Exam	Exam: Short answers and short essays about course readings, discussions, lectures, presentations;	20%	11/02

		includes extra credit		
		questions.		
Assignment #3	DH Final Project	Original DH Project and	20%	11/18
		Remote Presentation to		presentations
		Class.		begin for four
		Note: several class sessions		sessions
		will be devoted to working		
		on this project		12/04
				projects due
				in iLearn
Participation	Course Participation	You will be graded on your	20%	All semester
		thoughtful, appropriate, and		long.
		considerate class		
		participation throughout the		
		semester, including: joining		
		in conversations, asking		
		questions, sharing insights,		
		questioning any guest		
		speakers; focus in class		
		sessions.		
		Your contributions to our		
		shared reading in Perusall		
		will be a key component to		
		this grade.		

Required Text Book through Perusall in iLearn

Required course book will be read together and annotated online as a class through Perusall in iLearn:

Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. *Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

All other readings and audio-visual materials for this class will be made available to you electronically via iLearn. Readings are to be completed on the day they are listed on the syllabus. For example, the readings listed for Session 02 on 02/17 must be completed/annotated in time to discuss in class that evening.

Code of Student Conduct

Adherence to ordinary principles of academic honesty is expected of every Marist student. Students are responsible for their conduct that must comport with the Marist College codes for students. New this year is the handbook of required policies that relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Student Handbook, Marist College

https://www.marist.edu/documents/20182/21440/Student+Handbook+and+Student+Code+of+Conduct/cbb02c00-4e37-4c35-ae59-622962c4baa1

See document pages 38-40 for the College's "Conduct Associated with Academic Integrity"

COVID-19 Related Policies for Students, Marist College

https://www.marist.edu/documents/20182/0/Student+Code+of+Conduct+2020/aadb75dd-45ce-4d53-b296-826d4afab1a7

Class Participation

Class Participation is essential to your success in this class.

You will be graded on your thoughtful, appropriate, and considerate class participation throughout the semester, including: joining in conversations, asking questions, sharing insights, questioning any guest speakers; focus in class sessions. This in-class work will be evaluated on contributions to class discussions, listening to others, behaving in a respectful manner to your classmates, professor, and guests, being prepared for class. Importantly your contributions / annotations in Perusall to our group reading of our textbook *Antisocial Media* is an excellent way to participate this semester. Read, think, comment, question ... it all adds up to your Participation grade.

You are allowed only two unexcused absences. After two unexcused absences, four points for each class missed will be deducted from your Class Participation grade. Seven or more absences will result in a zero for your Class Participation grade. Arriving late to class will also negatively impact your grade.

Computers and handheld devices may be used only for class purposes.

SILENCE ALL PERSONAL DEVICES at the start of each class, thank you.

February 15, Monday Week 01, Session 01 Entirely Remote

Topic

Introductions: Your Professor, Digital Humanities, Our Syllabus

Review in Class Together

- 1. What is/are digital humanities?
- 2. Humanities ... https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/humanities
- 3. Office of Digital Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts: https://www.neh.gov/divisions/odh
- 4. The course textbook: Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. *Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press ... available for purchase in Perusall (left hand sidebar in our iLearn site).
 - a. Example I Marist Library catalog https://library.marist.edu/
 - b. Example II Darwin Correspondence Project https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/
 - c. Example III Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody 2*, visualized https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6xWGVhZl1g
- 5. Review Syllabus together
- 6. Slides: DH Introduction
- 7. Discuss SATURDAY Sessions and Groups A and B

Assignments Due Next Session

- a) Read this syllabus carefully
- b) Familiarize yourself with Marist's iLearn website. You are responsible for keeping track of deadlines and class events
- c) Readings for 02/17

February 17, Wednesday Week 01, Session 02 Entirely Remote

Topic

Introductions of Students, History of Digital Humanities; Perusall

Be prepared to describe yourself in a few sentences and include: your name, year at Marist, major or possible major (if known), why you took this class, an outside interest of your own, and what you think are the Digital Humanities (no right or wrong answer, this is a simple discussion).

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- 1. Explore before class a few DH projects funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities: https://www.neh.gov/our-work/listing?f%5B0%5D=content type%3Aproject
- 2. "Rise of the Machines" https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2013/julyaugust/feature/the-rise-the-machines
- 3. Why are the digital humanities so white? Tara McPherson, Debates in the Digital Humanities, 2012: https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/read/untitled-88c11800-9446-469b-a3be-3fdb36bfbd1e/section/20df8acd-9ab9-4f35-8a5d-e91aa5f4a0ea#ch09 ... focus on the last section "Moving Beyond Our Boxes" and the preceding three paragraphs

Review in Class Together

- a) Syllabus: we will run through all of the Assignments for this class, in detail.
- b) Readings Discussion, especially NEH
- c) Slides: History of Digital Humanities
- d) Perusall

Assignments Before Next Session

a) All readings for MONDAY 02/22

February 20, Saturday Week 01, Sat-01 Entirely Remote

Topic

Catch Up / Open Discussion / To Be Determined (TBD)

Perusall

February 22, Monday Week 02, Session 03 Entirely Remote

Topic

Google Search, Filter Bubbles

Review in Class Together

- a) Slides: Google It!
- b) Elis Pariser's *Beware Online Filter Bubbles*https://www.ted.com/talks/eli pariser beware online filter bubbles
- c) Andreas Ekstrom's *The Moral Bias Behind Your Search Results*https://www.ted.com/talks/andreas ekstrom the moral bias behind your search results
- d) Jaron Lanier's Why We Need to Remake the Internet
 https://www.ted.com/talks/jaron lanier how we need to remake the internet

Assignments Before Next Session

b) Readings for Wednesday 02/24

February 24, Wednesday Week 02, Session 04 Entirely Remote

Topic

Finding and Evaluating Research; Antisocial Media

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

1. Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. Antisocial Media – Introduction

Review in Class Together

- a) Slides: What is Data?
- b) Readings Discussion
- c) Propublica's Breaking the *Black Box: What Facebook Knows About You* https://www.propublica.org/article/breaking-the-black-box-what-facebook-knows-about-you

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 03/01

March 01, Monday Week 03, Session 05 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Topic

What is Data?

Review in Class Together

- a) Readings Discussion
- b) Miriam Posner's How Did They Make That? The Video! Reverse Engineering Digital Projects https://miriamposner.com/blog/how-did-they-make-that-the-video/
- c) R. Luke DuBois' *Insightful Human Portraits Made From Data*https://www.ted.com/talks/r_luke_dubois_insightful_human_portraits_made_from_data?referrer=pla_ylist-what_your_data_reveals_about_y#t-741656

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 03/03

March 03, Wednesday Week 03, Session 06 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

Topic

Locating and Collecting Data ... Primary and Secondary Sources

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- a) Introduction to Omeka [resource to come]
- b) Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. Antisocial Media Chapter 1, The Pleasure Machine
- c) Haiti's Declaration of Independence: Digging for Lost Documents in the Archives of the Atlantic World http://theappendix.net/issues/2014/1/haitis-declaration-of-independence-digging-for-lost-documents-in-the-archives-of-the-atlantic-world
- d) Around DH in 80 Days http://arounddh.elotroalex.com/journey/

Review in Class Together

- a) Slides: Primary and Secondary Sources
- b) Omeka
- c) Readings Discussion
- d) Laurie Hill's *Photograph of Jesus*, a whimsical short glimpse into a photo archive https://youtu.be/zve2chDhB 4

Assignments Before Next Session

- a) Assignment #1, How Did They Make That? Is due Monday 03/08
- b) All readings for MONDAY 03/08
- Very important: be prepared to ask Professor Ansley questions about Marist Archives on Monday 09/14

March 06, Saturday Week 03, Session SAT-02 Entirely Remote

Topic

Bibliography / Citation

Note: Assignment #1, How Did They Make That? Is due Monday 03/08

March 08, Monday Week 04, Session 07 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

*** 03/08 Assignment #1 due by tonight: How did they make that? ***

Topic

Online Tour of Marist College Archives and Special Collections with Dr. John Ansley

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

Familiarize yourself with the College Archives and Special Collections (ASC) before tonight's visit there: library.marist.edu/archives/ ... come with a question for Dr. Ansley! Think: Class Participation opportunity!

Review in Class Together

- a) Online / Remote Tour of Marist College Archives and Special Collections with Dr. John Ansley, Director
- b) Q&A with Professor Ansley

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 03/10

March 10, Wednesday Week 04, Session 08 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

Topic

Metadata, Access, and Preservation

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- 1. Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. Antisocial Media Chapter 2, The Surveillance Machine
- 2. Trevor Owens' *Defining Data for Humanists* http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/1-1/defining-data-for-humanists-by-trevor-owens/
- 3. OPTIONAL READING: How Netflix Reverse-Engineered Hollywood https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/01/how-netflix-reverse-engineered-hollywood/282679/

Review in Class Together

- a) Readings Discussion
- b) Slides: Metadata, Access, and Preservation
- c) Timeline JS ... https://timeline.knightlab.com

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 03/15

March 15, Monday Week 05, Session 09 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Topic

More on Metadata

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- Adding Descriptions to Digital Photos: Your Gift to the Future
 http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/multimedia/documents/photometadata_script.pdf
- 2. Hal Draper's MSFNDinaLBRY https://folk.universitetetioslo.no/knuthe/msfndinalbry.html

Review in Class Together

- a) Readings Discussion
- b) Slides: Metadata Lab

Assignments Before Next Session

- a) All readings for Wednesday 03/17
- b) Think about all of the *Terms of Service* and/or *User Agreements* you have agreed to for digital services, social media platforms, and other online resources ... very likely without have reading them in their entirety. This topic will be discussed in our next session.

March 17, Wednesday Week 05, Session 10 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

Topic

Text Analysis; Guest Speaker TBD

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- 1. Explore https://voyant-tools.org/
- 2. Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. Antisocial Media Chapter 3, The Attention Machine

Review in Class Together

- a) Guest speaker TBD
- b) Q&A with Guest Speaker
- c) Readings Discussion
- d) Syllabus in Voyant
- e) Patrick McShea's Terms of Service DH Project

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 03/22

March 22, Monday Week 06, Session 11 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Topic

Digital Identity; Mapping

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- 1. Explore StorymapJS https://storymap.knightlab.com/
- 2. Africamap, https://worldmap.harvard.edu/africamap
- 3. Slave Revolt in Jamaica, 1760-1761, Vincent Brown, http://revolt.axismaps.com/

Review in Class Together

- a) Readings Discussion
- b) Slides: Digital Identity and Engagement
- c) Pie Chart: Digital Intelligence and Maturity

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 03/24

March 24, Wednesday Week 06, Session 12 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

Topic

Mapping

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. *Antisocial Media* – Chapter 4 The Benevolence Machine **Review in Class Together**

- a) Readings Discussion
- b) Digital Harlem http://digitalharlem.org/
- c) Storymap JS https://storymap.knightlab.com/

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for MONDAY 03/29

March 27, Saturday Week 06, Session SAT-03 Entirely Remote

Topic

Social Dilemma Childhood 2.0 March 29, Monday Week 07, Session 13 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Note: Assignment #2, Analysis of a DH Project is due in iLearn Friday 04/02

Topic

Network Analysis

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- 1. *Using Metadata to Find Paul Revere* https://kieranhealy.org/blog/archives/2013/06/09/using-metadata-to-find-paul-revere/
- 2. Explore Kumu network tool https://kumu.io/

Review in Class Together

- a) Slides: Network Analysis
- b) Readings Discussion
- c) Quantifying Kissinger http://blog.quantifyingkissinger.com
- d) Viral Texts: Mapping Networks of Re-Printing in 19th Century Newspapers and Magazines, Ryan Cordell and David A. Smith, http://viraltexts.org

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 03/31

March 31, Wednesday Week 07, Session 14 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

*** 04/02 FRIDAY Assignment #2 Due – Analysis of a Digital Humanities Project ***

Topic

Network Analysis, Continued

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- 1. Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. Antisocial Media Chapter 5, The Protest Machine
- 'Introduction to Network Analysis', Thomas Padilla and Brandon Locke, http://thomaspadilla.org/na2014/

Review in Class Together

- a) Readings Discussion
- b) Kumu examples
- c) Propublica's Breaking the *Black Box: When Algorithms Decide What You Pay*https://www.propublica.org/article/breaking-the-black-box-when-algorithms-decide-what-you-pay

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 04/05

April 05, Monday Week 08, Session 15 = Halfway! LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Topic

Review, Renew, Recalibrate, Refresh: Open Discussion

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- 1. Please plan to share in class tonight a resource (website, Ted Talk, video, book, paper, etc.) of interest to you that relates to our syllabus and the subject of digital humanities and social media.
- 2. Optional ... please bring a TedTalk (ted.com) of your choosing that relates in some way to our DH course to share with the class.'

JUXTAPOSE

Review in Class Together

- a) Open discussion ... any DH: questions? Concerns? Hopes? Fears? Ideas?
- b) Propublica's *Breaking the Black Box: When Machines Learn by Experimenting On Us*https://www.propublica.org/article/breaking-the-black-box-when-machines-learn-by-experimenting-on-us
- c) Cal Newport's Why You Should Quit Social Media
 https://www.ted.com/talks/cal_newport_why_you_should_quit_social_media
- d) And for laughs ... James Veitch's *This is What Happens When You Reply to Spam Email* https://www.ted.com/talks/james veitch this is what happens when you reply to spam email

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 04/07

April 07, Wednesday Week 08, Session 16 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

Topic

Project Management and Grants

Readings due for Class Discussion Tonight

- 1. Vaidhyanathan, Siva. 2018. Antisocial Media Chapter 6, The Politics Machine
- 2. Best Practice Principles of Designing Your First Project http://devdh.org/lectures/design/bestpractice/
- 3. National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Digital Humanities (may be familiar already) https://www.neh.gov/divisions/odh

As you have and continue to encounter DH projects, keep an eye out for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funding symbol. In class on Wednesday we will learn about how digital humanities researchers and centers approach getting grants. We will also think about how the priorities of grant-giving organizations shapes the projects and research we see. In preparation for that discussion, please review NEH's grant programs for the Office of Digital Humanities.

Review in Class Together

- a) Readings Discussion
- b) Slides: Project Management and Grants
- c) Propublica's Breaking the *Black Box: How Machines Learn to be Racist*https://www.propublica.org/article/breaking-the-black-box-how-machines-learn-to-be-racist?word=Trump

TIMELINE

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for MONDAY 04/12

April 10, Saturday Week 08, SAT-04 Entirely Remote

Topic

Catch Up / Open Discussion / To Be Determined (TBD)

April 12, Monday Week 09, Session 17 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Timeline

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 04/14

April 14, Wednesday Week 09, Session 18 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

Topic

Digital to Physical

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for MONDAY 04/19

April 19, Monday Week 10, Session 19 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Topic

Project Principles, Universal Access

Readings Due for Class Tonight

Williams, George H. (2012). "Disability, Universal Design, and Digital Humanities" in Debates in the Digital Humanities (Matthew K. Gold, Editor), Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

 $\frac{https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/read/40de72d8-f153-43fa-836b-a41d241e949c/section/2a59a6fe-3e93-43ae-a42f-1b26d1b4becc\#ch12$

Review in Class Together

- a) Readings discussion
- b) "Best Practice Principles of Designing Your First Project," http://devdh.org/lectures/design/bestpractice/
- c) Slides: Project Management and Grants
- d) Slides: User Experience

Assignments Before Next Session

All readings for 04/21

April 21, Wednesday Week 10, Session 20 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

Topic

Exam Preparation, Walk through of Exam Question Types, Open Discussion

April 26, Monday Week 11, Session 21 Entirely Remote

E X A M !!!

Take-home exam, open notes, 24 hours to complete. Meets all Accommodations.

April 28, Wednesday Week 11, Session 22 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Topic

WORK ON PROJECTS I – PROJECT INITIATION

May 01, Saturday
Week 11, Session SAT-05
Entirely Remote

Project Work

May 03, Monday Week 12, Session 23 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Topic

WORK ON PROJECTS II – PLANNING AND DESIGN

May 05, Wednesday Week 12, Session 24 LB 303 = Group B Remote = Group A

Topic

WORK ON PROJECTS III – PROJECT EXECUTION

May 10, Monday Week 13, Session 25 LB 303 = Group A Remote = Group B

Topic

WORK ON PROJECTS IV – PROJECT REVIEW AND EDITING

May 12, Wedneso	day
Week 13, Session	26
LB 303 = Group B	
Remote = Group	A

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FINAL Presentations, Section 1:

May 15, Saturday
Week 13, Session SAT-04
Entirely Remote

[if needed]

LB 303 = Group A = L Remote = Group B	. <mark>ast in-person</mark>	on-ground session o	of Fall 2020	
Topic FINAL Presentations,	Section 2:			

May 17, Monday Week 14, Session 27

May 19, N	londay			
Week 15,	Session 2	28		
Remote =	Group A	and	Group I	В

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-	212

FINAL Presentations, Section 3:

Topic FINAL Presentations, Section 4	:	

May 14, Wednesday Week 15, Session 29

Remote = Group A and Group B

*** MAY 28, FRIDAY before MIDNIGHT (11:55 PM) = Assignment #3
Final DH PROJECTS DUE!

Each and every student must submit their digital project packet in iLearn ***

May 26, Wednesday = ONLY IF NEEDED Week 16, Session 30

FINAL Presentations, Section 5:

SEMESTER ENDS FRIDAY MAY 28, 2021
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS!

