**Syllabus for**

**Digital Humanities:**

**A Fifteen-Week Online Course**

**Prepared by Marist College**

**Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities**

**Course Description**

Welcome to “Digital Humanities: A Fifteen-Week Online Course,” where we explore the relatively new field of digital humanities (“DH” for short), the nature of DH projects, how these spring out of traditional humanities work, a little bit about the history of the field, sample DH projects, plus an in-depth look at several free, easy-to-use “no code” DH tools that you will utilize to create your very own DH project.

The Digital Humanities allow students to explore how digital technologies alter our understanding of ourselves, history, literature, philosophy, religion, and our culture. 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 for research, analysis, and publication.

Each student will gain experience with hands-on, creative digital work that will allow students to speak to their interests in the liberal arts by experimenting with text analysis, data visualization, digital archives, mapping, and more.

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

**Course Goals and Objectives**

1. Describe cross disciplinary perspectives and methodologies on the digital humanities
2. Discuss a range of digital humanities projects and evaluate the tools and methods involved in creating those projects
3. Engage with a variety of digital humanities tools to become familiar with a range of methodologies and research situations
4. Apply critical and reflective lenses to digital research methodologies and projects
5. Develop an ethical approach to producing digital humanities projects and scholarship that underscores knowledge making as complex, socially situated, and cultural/political
6. Plan, develop, and present a digital humanities research project
7. Compose a variety of texts in conjunction with diverse rhetorical situations attached to digital research and project development
8. Understand the ramifications of the digital environment, including negative aspects of social media, and how a handful of massive digital corporations aggregate our data to monetize our behavior

**Course Schedule**

**A. INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL HUMANITIES (DH)**

**Week 01**

**What are Traditional and Digital Humanities?**

**Readings**

Burdick, A., Drucker, J., Lunenfeld, P., Presner, T., Schnapp, J. (2012).  “Humanities to Digital Humanities” (pp. 1-26). *Digital\_Humanities*. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA. [open-access copy], <https://archive.org/details/DigitalHumanities_201701/page/n13/mode/2up> **(UL)**

Hindley, M. (2013). Rise of the Machines. *Humanities*, Vol. 34, No. 4, <https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2013/julyaugust/feature/the-rise-the-machines> **(LL)**

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), <https://www.neh.gov/> **(LL)**

Browse all NEH “Projects” <https://www.neh.gov/our-work/listing?f%5B0%5D=content_type%3Aproject> **(LL)**

Explore the NEH’s Office of Digital Humanities (ODH) <https://www.neh.gov/divisions/odh> **(LL)**

Browse all NEH’s ODH Projects <https://www.neh.gov/our-work/listing?f%5B0%5D=our_work_division_office%3A346&f%5B1%5D=content_type%3Aproject> **(LL)**

Unsworth, J. (Oct. 9, 2012). What’s digital humanities and how did it get here? <https://blogs.brandeis.edu/library/2012/10/09/whats-digital-humanities-and-how-did-it-get-here/> **(UL)**

**Week 02**

**History and Critiques of Digital Humanities**

**Readings**

Bailey, M.Z. (2011). All the Digital Humanities are White, All the Nerds are Men, but Some of Us are Brave. *Journal of Digital Humanities,* 1(1), 1-1. <http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/1-1/all-the-digital-humanists-are-white-all-the-nerds-are-men-but-some-of-us-are-brave-by-moya-z-bailey/> **(UL)**

Buolamwini, J., and T. Gebru (2018). “Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification.” *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research,* 81:1-15 <http://proceedings.mlr.press/v81/buolamwini18a/buolamwini18a.pdf> **(LL)**

Busa, Roberto et al., *Index Thomisticus,* <https://www.corpusthomisticum.org/it/index.age> **(LL)**

D'Ignazio, C., & Klein, L. F. (2020). The Power Chapter. [Open review copy]. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA, <https://mitpressonpubpub.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/7ruegkt6/release/4>

Gallon, K. (2016). Making a case for the black digital humanities. Debates in the Digital Humanities, 42-49, <https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/read/untitled/section/fa10e2e1-0c3d-4519-a958-d823aac989eb> **(UL)**

McPherson, T. (2012). “Why Are the Digital Humanities So White? or Thinking the Histories of Race and Computation.” *Debates in the Digital Humanities,* <https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/read/untitled-88c11800-9446-469b-a3be-3fdb36bfbd1e/section/20df8acd-9ab9-4f35-8a5d-e91aa5f4a0ea#ch09> **(LL)**

Winter, Thomas Nelson, "Roberto Busa, S.J., and the Invention of the Machine-Generated Concordance" (1999). Faculty Publications, Classics and Religious Studies Department. 70. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/classicsfacpub/70> **(LL)**

**B. DIGITAL PROJECT DESIGN**

**Week 03**

**Stages of DH Projects**

**Readings**

Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, “Project Management for the Digital Humanities” <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/pm4dh/> **(UL)**

Flanders, J. (2018). “Data Modeling in a Digital Humanities Context.” *In Flanders and Jannidis* (eds.), The Shape of Data in the Digital Humanities*, 2018.* <https://juliaflanders.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/flanders_jannidis_data_modeling.pdf> **(UL)**

Gomez, A. (2019). “The Making of the Digital Working Class: Social History, Digital Humanities, and Its Sources.” *In* Gold and Klein (eds.), *Debates in the Digital HUmanities, 2019.* <https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/read/untitled-f2acf72c-a469-49d8-be35-67f9ac1e3a60/section/3788efb8-3471-4c45-9581-55b8a541364b#ch33> **(UL)**

Posner, Miriam. “How Did They Make That? The Video! Reverse Engineering Digital Projects,” <https://miriamposner.com/blog/how-did-they-make-that-the-video/>

University of Sheffield, “What is a Digital Humanities Project?”<https://www.dhi.ac.uk/what-is-a-digital-humanities-project/>

Yale DH Lab, “Project Planning” <https://dhlab.yale.edu/guides/project-planning.html> **(UL)**

**Weeks 04-05: Finding Data, Data Ethics, Social Media**

**Week 04**

**Finding Data**

**Readings**

DuBois, R. Luke, “Insightful Human Portraits Made From Data” [https://www.ted.com/talks/r\_luke\_dubois\_insightful\_human\_portraits\_made\_from\_data?referrer=playlist-what\_your\_data\_reveals\_about\_y#t-741656](https://www.ted.com/talks/r_luke_dubois_insightful_human_portraits_made_from_data?referrer=playlist-what_your_data_reveals_about_y) **(LL)**

Owen, T. (2011). “Defining Data for Humanists: Text, Artifact, Information or Evidence?” *Journal of Digital Humanities*, Vol. 1, No. 1. <http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/1-1/defining-data-for-humanists-by-trevor-owens/>

Posner, Miriam “Humanities Data: A Necessary Contradiction” <https://miriamposner.com/blog/humanities-data-a-necessary-contradiction/>

**Week 05**

**Social Media, Surveillance, Data Ethics; Grounded Theory**

1. **Social Media, Surveillance, Data Ethics**

**Readings**

Common Sense Media “Deepfakes and Democracy” <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/videos/deepfakes-and-democracy> **(LL)**

Common Sense Media “Truth About Tech: A Road Map for Kids’ Digital Well-Being” <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/sites/default/files/uploads/landing_pages/a-roadmap-for-digital-well-being.pdf> **(LL)**

Ekstrom, Andreas “Moral Bias Behind Your Search Results” <https://www.ted.com/talks/andreas_ekstrom_the_moral_bias_behind_your_search_results> **(LL)**

Forbes’ “The World’s Most Valuable Brands, 2020” [Note the top five are the tech giants that harvest our data and sell to third parties to monetize our behavior] <https://www.forbes.com/the-worlds-most-valuable-brands/#2a2abfba119c> **(LL)**

Lanier, Jaron “Why We Need to Remake the Internet” <https://www.ted.com/talks/jaron_lanier_how_we_need_to_remake_the_internet>

Leurs, K.H.A. (2017). Feminist data analysis. Using digital methods for ethical, reflexive and situated socio-cultural research : Lessons learned from researching young Londoners’ digital identities <http://dspace.library.uu.nl/bitstream/handle/1874/360380/feminist.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> -- read only *Ethics of care and Data Analysis* section, p. 137-140 **(UL)**

*New York Times* Opinion “Deepfakes: Is This Video Even Real?” <https://youtu.be/1OqFY_2JE1c> **(LL)**

*New York Times* Opinion “Jaron Lanier Fixes the Internet” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Np5ri-KktNs&t=40s> **(LL)**

Pariser, Eli “Beware Online Filter Bubbles” <https://www.ted.com/talks/eli_pariser_beware_online_filter_bubbles>

Propublica’s *Breaking the Black Box* Series **(LL)**

“What Facebook Knows About You” <https://www.propublica.org/article/breaking-the-black-box-what-facebook-knows-about-you>

“When Algorithms Decide What You Pay” <https://www.propublica.org/article/breaking-the-black-box-when-algorithms-decide-what-you-pay>

“When Machines Learn by Experimenting on Us” <https://www.propublica.org/article/breaking-the-black-box-when-machines-learn-by-experimenting-on-us>

“How Machines Learn to be Racist” <https://www.propublica.org/article/breaking-the-black-box-how-machines-learn-to-be-racist?word=Trump>

Vaidhyanathan, Siva (2018). *Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy.* New York: Oxford University Press, 288 pp. **[Note: this makes an excellent course textbook; included here for recommended reading, not required.] (LL)**

Veitch, James “This is what Happens when You Reply to Spam Email” <https://youtu.be/LiLS7U7YIdc> **(LL)**

Zuboff, S. (2019). *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power.* London: Profile Books, 691 pp. **[Note: this is included for recommended reading only] (LL)**

1. **Grounded Theory**

**Readings**

Dighton, Desiree. (August, 2020). Arranging a rhetorical feminist methodology: Tableau, Twitter data, and anti-gentrification rhetoric. *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy. Special Issue: Data Viz in Writing Studies*, <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/25.1/topoi/dighton/attending-to-subjectivity.html> (Note: only required to read 3 pages of the webtext: Attending to Subjectivity, Creating Visualizations, and Conclusions) **(UL)**

Moerman, G.A., “Grounded Theory” at University of Amsterdam, <https://youtu.be/Y6f1GHjD5JQ> **(UL)**

**Week 06**

**Project Design Process (Prototyping) and Universal Design**

**Readings**

Brown, T. (2008). “Design Thinking.” *Harvard Business Review, June 2008.* <https://new-ideo-com.s3.amazonaws.com/assets/files/pdfs/IDEO_HBR_DT_08.pdf> **(UL)**

Econsultancy “Five Digital-to-Physical Social Campaigns that will Inspire Us in 2016” <https://econsultancy.com/five-digital-to-physical-social-campaigns-that-will-inspire-us-in-2016/> **(LL)**

Lee, Jinha “Reach into the Computer and Grab a Pixel”  <https://www.ted.com/talks/jinha_lee_a_tool_that_lets_you_touch_pixels> **(LL)**

National Geographic “How 3-D-Printed Prosthetic Hands are Changing These Kids’ Lives” <https://youtu.be/Cl8ijPGEKO8> **(LL)**

Ogilvy Panama “The Tweeting Pothole” <https://youtu.be/B0FrWFXkwTU> **(LL)**

Palacios, Katie “The 7 Principles of Universal Design: A Nonlecture” <https://youtu.be/d-GzKyK0iw4> **(LL)**

Posner, Miriam “Getting Started with Palladio” <https://miriamposner.com/blog/getting-started-with-palladio/> **(UL)**

Ramsay, S. (2014). “The Hermeneutics of Screwing Around; or What You Do with a Million Books.” *PastPlay Teaching and Learning History with Technology****,***  
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/dh/12544152.0001.001/1:5/--pastplay-teaching-and-learning-history-with-technology?g=dculture;rgn=div1;view=fulltext;xc=1> **(UL)**

Williams, George H. (2012). “Disability, Universal Design, and the Digital Humanities.” Chapter 12 in Debates in the Digital Humanities (Matthew K. Gold, Editor). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press <https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/read/untitled-88c11800-9446-469b-a3be-3fdb36bfbd1e/section/2a59a6fe-3e93-43ae-a42f-1b26d1b4becc> **(LL)**

**Week 07**

**Building Projects with Omeka**

**Readings**

Commons Social Change Library, “Why Archive: Here Are 5 Reasons” <https://commonslibrary.org/activist-archiving-start-here/#Why_archive_Here_are_5_reasons%E2%80%A6> **(LL)**

McGann, J. (1996). “Radiant Textuality.” Victorian Studies, 39(3), 379-390. <http://www2.iath.virginia.edu/public/jjm2f/radiant.html> **(UL)**

Omeka: Working with Dublin Core <https://omeka.org/classic/docs/Content/Working_with_Dublin_Core/>

Openflows Community Technology Cooperative, “3 Questions to Make a Digital Archive” <https://www.openflows.com/3questions-to-make-a-digital-archive/> **(UL)**

Posner, Miriam, “Up and Running with Omeka” <http://miriamposner.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Up-and-Running-with-Omeka2.pdf>

**C. SELECT DIGITAL METHODS**

**Week 08**

**Digital Storytelling**

**Readings**

Barber, J. F. & Siemens, R. (Reviewing Editor). (2016). Digital storytelling: New opportunities for humanities scholarship and pedagogy, Cogent Arts & Humanities, 3:1, DOI: [10.1080/23311983.2016.1181037](https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2016.1181037) <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311983.2016.1181037?scroll=top&needAccess=true> **(UL)**

Chaidez, S. (2018) “Digital Storytelling in Digital Humanities?” <https://soniachaidez.com/digital-storytelling/digital-storytelling-in-digital-humanities/> **(UL)**

**Week 09**

**Visualization**

**Readings**

Drucker, Johanna. (2017). Information visualization and/as enunciation. *Journal of Documentation*, 73.5, 903-916, <https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-01-2017-0004> (**use only if have subscription**)

Drucker, Johanna. (2011). Humanities Approaches to Graphical Display. *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 5.1, <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/5/1/000091/000091.html> (**use in place of other Drucker reading for free article**)

Nathan Yau, [*Visualize This*](https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=CB9XRIv9oigC&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&hl=en&pg=GBS.PP5) (Chapter 1, “Telling Stories with Data”), <https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=CB9XRIv9oigC&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&hl=en&pg=GBS.PP5>

Teach, Dariah “DH in Practice - Visualising Text” interview of Geoffrey Rockwell (Professor of Philosophy and Humanities Computing at the University of Alberta, Canada) and Stéfan Sinclair (Associate Professor of Digital Humanities at McGill University) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uamyLcWtECg>

**Week 10**

**Mapping and GIS**

**Readings**

Ayers, Edward L. (2010). “Turning Toward Place, Space, and Time” from *The Spatial Humanities: GIS and the Future of the Humanities Scholarship* edited by David J. Bodenhamer, John Corrigan, and Trevor M. Harris, 1-13. Bloomington: Indiana University Press., <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/history-faculty-publications/98/> **(UL)**

Bliss, Laura (2016). The Problem With ‘Areas of Interest’ on Google Maps. *CityLabs*, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-08-02/the-problem-with-areas-of-interest-on-google-maps>

Jaojoco, Patrick (July-Aug, 2018). "[Spatial Historiographies: The Decolonial Mapping Toolkit](https://thefunambulist.net/articles/spatial-historiographies-decolonial-mapping-toolkit-patrick-jaojoco-frontview)," *The Funambulist* (file attached below) - **subscribe to get access to text**

Jhamb, Smriti (2019). “[What is the Difference between GIS and Mapping](https://www.thegeospatial.in/difference-between-gis-mapping#:~:text=However%2C%20there%20is%20a%20real,thousands%20of%20pictorial%20maps%20worldwide.)” <https://www.thegeospatial.in/difference-between-gis-mapping>

Madrigal, Alexis C (2012). How Google Builds Its Maps—and What It Means for the Future of Everything. *The Atlantic*, Sept. 6, <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2012/09/how-google-builds-its-maps-and-what-it-means-for-the-future-of-everything/261913/>

Vedantam, Shankar (2014). “Political Map: Does Geography Shape Your Ideology?” National Public Radio, <https://www.npr.org/2014/02/04/271355276/political-map-does-geography-shape-your-ideology>

**Weeks 11-12. Distant Reading**

**Week 11**

**Cultural Analytics**

**Readings**

Cherry, Steven (2012). “The Cultural Treasures in Google Ngrams,” IEEE, <https://spectrum.ieee.org/podcast/geek-life/profiles/the-cultural-treasures-in-google-ngram> (podcast)

Cohen, Patricia (2010). “Analyzing Literature by Words and Numbers,” *New York Times,* <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/04/books/04victorian.html?pagewanted=all> -- **use if you have a subscription**

Kain, Patricia (1998). “How to do a Close Read,” Harvard College Writing Center <https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/how-do-close-reading>

Mandell, Laura (2019). “Gender and Cultural Analytics: Finding or Making Stereotypes,”in *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2019* <https://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/read/untitled-f2acf72c-a469-49d8-be35-67f9ac1e3a60/section/5d9c1b63-7b60-42dd-8cda-bde837f638f4>

Miller, C. C. (2015) “Is the Professor Bossy or Brilliant? Much Depends on Gender,”  *New York Times,* Feb. 6, <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/07/upshot/is-the-professor-bossy-or-brilliant-much-depends-on-gender.html> -- **use if you have a subscription**

Tonra, Justin (2019). “What is Distant Reading?” RTE *Brainstorm* blo <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2019/1114/1090846-what-is-distant-reading/>

Walsh, Brandon. “How Computers Read Texts” in *Introduction to Text Analysis, A Coursebook* by Brandon Walsh and Sarah Horowitz <https://walshbr.com/textanalysiscoursebook/book/cyborg-readers/computer-reading/>

**Week 12: Text Analysis**

**Readings**

Da, Nan Z. (2019). “The Digital Humanities Debacle: Computational methods repeatedly come up short” <https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-digital-humanities-debacle/?bc_nonce=isd3x3td5ue4qdxjz9ozm&cid=reg_wall_signup> - sign up to read article **(UL)**

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins (1892). “The Yellow Wallpaper” available through the Project Gutenberg, <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1952/1952-h/1952-h.htm> **(UL)**

Underwood, Ted (2012). “Topic Modelling Made Just Simple Enough” <https://tedunderwood.com/2012/04/07/topic-modeling-made-just-simple-enough/>

**Week 13: Networks**

**Readings**

Scott Weingart, “Demystifying Networks, Parts I & II” from the *Journal of Digital Humanities*,

<http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/1-1/demystifying-networks-by-scott-weingart/>

Laurie Gries, “Mapping Collective Activity” from *Mapping Obama Hope,*

<http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/21.2/topoi/gries/networks.html>

Quantifying Kissinger, Micki Kauffman,

[http://blog.quantifyingkissinger.com](http://blog.quantifyingkissinger.com/)

**D. DEVELOPING DIGITAL PROJECTS**

**Week 14: Project Work**

Week 1 of 2

**Week 15: Project Work**

Week 2 of 2