**Reflective Essay on the Experience of *Introduction to Digital Humanities* Classes**

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“I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.” ~ Pablo Picasso’s words have always been a guiding principle of my life. This time I dared to venture into the dynamic world of digital technology despite my limited prior knowledge in this field. While it is commonly believed that PhD scholars enrol for the coursework just for the sake of doing it; merely as a formality, I chose the course *Introduction to Digital Humanities* from a genuine desire of *learning.* Having a background in core English literature, the past seven years have been solely involved in traditional methods of reading texts mostly on the printed medium, deeply associated with the methodologies of close reading, textual analysis, and critical theories, hermeneutics thoroughly embedded with epistemological and ontological questions. The ideas of integrating digital tools into these traditional qualitative methods thereby induced an excitement and curiosity within me. Having no prior hands-on experience with digital tools, initially I was a bit scared. However, as the semester is progressing, I find myself confident in navigating this dynamic terrain. With the constant guidance of our respected professor and the assistance from our TA, I am assembling enough courage to discover new methodologies that challenge traditional academic boundaries.

In terms of sharing the class experience, the first thing that is worth mentioning is how the classes break away from the traditional methods of teaching- starting with memes (an unimaginable approach in conventional teaching) which helps students shaking off their early morning drowsiness. One of the striking aspects of the Digital Humanities class is that it emphasises on interdisciplinarity. The class environment consisting of students from different backgrounds fosters a sense of syncretism. I find the diversity of thought and expertise really invaluable as I get to learn multiple approaches from multiple perspectives appreciate and analyze events from different lenses. We have been informed by our professor that there will be collaborative projects in future which I believe will enhance the team spirit and provide more hands-on experience with digital tools.

Moreover, certain classes have been really eye opening as it changed some of the preconceived notions about the binary between digital and humanities. Each session is a blend of theory and hands-on practice where we engage with platforms like GitHub and Hypothesis. The classes also emphasize the importance of critical thinking. That Digital Humanities is not just collecting and analyzing data but also of blending creativity and analytical rigor, is ascertained by our professor in every class through interactive sessions. I would like to refer to one particular class where we were asked to share our views on what imaginations or ideas does our heritage building of IIT ISM Dhanbad invoke. From colonial history to labour studies, the session brought forth a rich diversity of perspectives. That class not only prompted an engaging discussion but it made me realize that Digital Humanities is not merely about using digital tools but also of an inclusive understanding of the past.

In conclusion, I would like to add that I am looking forward to exploring the myriad possibilities Digital Humanities offers. As my area of research revolves around the field of Theater and Performance Studies, I believe the forthcoming four months of experience is going to offer new ways to analyse, preserve and engage with performances. It may enable me in the process of archiving performances, making them accessible for future study.