

# DIGHUM101 – Practicing the Digital Humanities

Dr. Tom van Nuenen

[tomvannuenen@berkeley.edu](mailto:tomvannuenen@berkeley.edu)

**Dates:** Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (May 23 – July 1, 2022)

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

**Office Hours:** By appointment on Zoom

**Prerequisites:** None!

**Requirements:** Computer, Zoom account, and Internet connection.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to teach you basic principles for conducting professional research in the Digital Humanities. You will learn how to program Python in Jupyter Notebooks to access, explore, visualize, and analyze data in humanities contexts. You are strongly encouraged to concurrently enroll in [DIGHUM 100 – Theory and Methods in the Digital Humanities](#) to complement this experience with a strong theoretical foundation. By the end of this course, you will learn:

- A variety of Pythonic approaches to explore questions in the humanities;
- How to understand data more holistically, its generative process and lifecycle;
- Strategies for organizing research projects based on your interests;
- Methods for data acquisition and visualization, computational text analysis, and machine learning;
- The importance of developing a critical lens in your field of study.

## SOFTWARE INSTALLATIONS

***\*Please have this complete before first day\****

- Download and install Python Anaconda 3.9 distribution:  
<https://www.anaconda.com/distribution/>
- Windows users only must install Git (Mac users do not have to):  
<https://git-scm.com/downloads>

## COURSE MATERIALS

- Course materials and instructions are on bCourses and the course Github repository:  
<https://github.com/dlab-berkeley/DIGHUM101-2022>

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Task	Assignment	Topic	Due	% grade	Points	Type
Attendance	1	(required)	Everyday	10	20	Participation
Homework	2	Video	July 1	20	40	Digital format
Group project	3	Topic	June 20	10	20	One-page summary
Individual project	4	Presentation	June 27-28	20	40	Slideshow
	5	Topic		10	20	Two-page summary
	6	Presentation		20	40	Jupyter Notebook
	7	Repository		10	20	GitHub

Grading is straight scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F<60

### Assignment descriptions

- 1. Attendance (sign-in via Zoom).** This course is synchronous and attendance is required. Asynchronous exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, such as for those living in distant time zones. Each class is divided into two types:
  - a. Lecture days:** The instructor will take you through the Jupyter notebooks. The remainder of the time will be for you to work through specific challenge set problems, ask questions, and think about how the topic relates to your projects.
  - b. Project days:** These days will be exclusively focused on your individual and group projects.

- 2. Homework: Video (submit on bCourses).** Record a 3-5 minute video that demonstrates thoughtful reflection about how your ideas regarding digital humanities research grew throughout this course. Use specific examples and perspectives from your individual and group projects. You must appear in at least 30 seconds of footage. **Deadline: 1 July 2022**

**Group Project.** The group project will require you to work in small groups, read some theoretical articles, and give a presentation to your classmates. It consists of two assignments: a one-page summary (single-spaced) about your group's theoretical topic and a presentation.

- 3. Group Project – Topic (submit a one-page single-spaced proposal on bCourses – one per group).** Each student will be assigned to a group. Each group must choose a theoretical or critical topic to present on using the articles in the “selected readings” folder on bCourses. Everyone must read three articles from this folder. Each student in a group can choose the same three readings, or each student can choose different readings, but the topic must be unified and coherent across all group members and readings. Where relevant, use the readings to reflect on your individual project work, such as the kinds of approaches and methods you are engaging in. *Do not do any programming/coding for this group project.* Use 10-12 point font and include references cited. **Deadline: 20 June 2022**

**4. Group Project – Presentation.** Each group will present a 10-12 minute presentation of their topic using PowerPoint, Prezi, .html, pdf, etc. Focus on how the readings you chose show the complexities of DH research, and how the readings have influenced your own research approach and thinking across your individual projects. Be creative here: emphasize visuals, infographics, video, audio, polls, interactivity, etc. so long as it does not detract from your point (and works via Zoom screen share). Keep your talking points clear and concise and minimize the amount of text you use. **Presentations are held in week 6.**

**Individual Project.** The purpose of the individual project is to demonstrate your programming competencies in a digital humanities research context. It consists of three parts:

**5. Individual Project – Topic (submit a two-page single-spaced prospectus on bCourses).** The topic for this individual project is your choice and the only limiting factors are your abilities along with the scope and scale of your idea and the data. Think big, but then carve out a little slice of that big idea to focus on for this six-week course. Use 10-12 point font. **Deadline: 20 June 2022**

**6. Individual Project – Presentation.** You are required to give a 5-minute presentation of your individual project. A functioning Jupyter Notebook is the only acceptable format. Walk us through the notebook, your findings, and the choices you made in the research process. **Presentations are held in week 6.**

**7. Individual Project – GitHub repository (submit URL on bCourses).** Publish your individual project as a Jupyter notebook to your GitHub repository. Include a README.md file that includes a: 1) title, 2) header image, and 3) abstract of your research. **Deadline: 1 July 2022**

**Note:** you can find example projects for both individual and group projects in the “Example projects” folder on bCourses. Please browse through them to get your mind going on what the possibilities are and what you would like to do.

## SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics
1	May 23	Syllabus, example projects, and Jupyter Notebooks
	May 24	Python basics: Build your programming vocabulary
	May 25	Pandas data frames; Data formats (txt, csv, xml, json)
	May 26	Project day: Group assignments; individual topic brainstorm
2	May 30	<i>No Class: Memorial Day</i>
	May 31	Text data sources (Project Gutenberg and HTRC); Text preprocessing
	June 1	Data visualization (Matplotlib, Seaborn)
	June 2	Project day: Group project questions; Individual project dataset exploration
3	June 6	Web scraping (BeautifulSoup)
	June 7	APIs: Google Books, Reddit (PRAW), Twitter (Tweepy)
	June 8	Network analysis; geospatial data (GeoPandas)
	June 9	Example project: Walkthrough
4	June 13	Introduction to Bash and GitHub
	June 14	Machine learning: Jargons, preprocessing, regression, classification
	June 15	Machine learning: Document encoding (CountVectorizer, TfidfVectorizer)
	June 16	Project day: Group project topics due; Individual topic and dataset due
5	June 20	Machine learning: Topic modeling
	June 21	Machine learning: Word2Vec
	June 22	Machine learning: Classification
	June 23	Project day: Individual project focus
6	June 27	Group presentations
	June 28	Group presentations
	June 29	Individual Presentations
	June 30	Individual Presentations

### Legal stuff – read this carefully!

Remember that you are bound to various codes of conduct. See the legal document in “Files” on bCourses. By enrolling in this class, you take full responsibility for your learning.