Here we go!

Course on GitHub:

https://github.com/laurenfklein/emory-qtm340

Plan for today:

- ~~Quick exploration of the transcriptions from last class via Voyant~~
- Reminder: Install Anaconda (Python 3.7 version) before next class!
- Discussion of text as "massively addressable object"
- Sign up for Canvas discussion day (2 each)
- Discussion of "Persimmons"
- Quick exploration of the Li-Young Lee "corpus" via Voyant

Reminder!

- Install Anaconda (Python 3.7 version) before next class!
- This is what it looks like: https://www.anaconda.com/distribution/

Text as "massively addressable object"

- What distinguishes text from numbers?
- What distinguishes digitized text from other forms of text?

Text as "massively addressable object"

- Whitmore: "A text is a text because it is massively at different levels of scale."

- What does he mean by this?

Text as "massively addressable object"

- Whitmore: "A text is a text because it is massively at different levels of scale."

- What are some of these levels of scale?

Text as "massively addressable object"

- Whitmore: "A text is a text because it is massively at different levels of scale."

- What are some of these levels of scale?
  - Character, word, phrase, line, etc.
  - Also, book, genre, collection
  - A line of print, all of the nouns,
  - All concrete nouns:
    - "A concrete noun is a noun that can be identified through one of the five senses (taste, touch, sight, hearing, or smell)." vs. abstract nouns (that cannot be perceived by the senses)
  - All proper names in the phonebook

Text as "massively addressable object"

- Whitmore: "A text is a text because it is massively at different levels of scale."

- A caveat: text was already addressable before it was digitized.

Text as "massively addressable object"

- Whitmore: "A text is a text because it is massively at different levels of scale."

- What are the scales of address of a book? A scroll?

Text as "massively addressable object"

- Whitmore: "A text is a text because it is massively at different levels of scale."

- What are the scales of address of a book?
  - Book: page, chapter, binding of quires
    - Also: marginal notes
    - Digression: manicules
  - Imagination: connections b/t one text and another
    - Whitmore calls this a "provisional unity"

Text as "massively addressable object"

- "A physical text or manifestation is a provisional unity."

- The challenge becomes how we can stabilize these unities so as to operationalize them.
  - That's the challenge that structures this course.
- But we also need to keep in mind that we cannot stabilize or operationalize all of them—not now, not ever.
- They are constantly changing, as are we.

Li-Young Lee, "Persimmons"

The Li-Young Lee "corpus"

Reminder!

- Install Anaconda (Python 3.7 version) before next class!
- This is what it looks like: https://www.anaconda.com/distribution/