Intro to Digital Humanities – Fall 2025 – Course Schedule

Abbreviations

- BHDH: *The Bloomsbury Handbook to the Digital Humanities*, ed. O'Sullivan, 2022.
- PyHum: *Python for Humanists*, William Mattingly, 2022. https://python-textbook.pythonhumanities.com/

1. September 2

- Introductions
- Syllabus
- Plato's *Ion* (provided in class)
- Text encoding exercise: Mark up as many pages of the *Ion* by hand as you can. (We will discuss details in class.) What features are important to emphasize? How do you want to identify different elements of the text?

Homework

- O'Sullivan, James. "Introduction: Reconsidering the Present and Future of the Digital Humanities." (BHDH pp. 1–4)
- Drucker, Johanna. "Normative Digital Humanities." (BHDH pp. 7–18)
- TEI Consortium, "A Gentle Introduction to XML." https://tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/SG.html

2. September 9

- Reading quiz
- Discussion: What can digital humanities do?
- Installing a text editor
- TEI Lab

Homework

- TEI Lab
- Buzzetti, Dino. 2002. "Digital Representation and the Textual Model."
- MLA, *Digital Pedagogy in the Humanities*, "Annotation"

3. September 16

- Text editor troubleshooting
- Discussion: What has been your experience with TEI so far? What resources did you draw on for your work? How do different textual models affect your encoding process?
- Introduction to Voyant: https://voyant-tools.org/docs/tutorial-tutorial.html
    - Assembling a corpus
    - Adding to a corpus
    - Distant reading

Homework

- Moretti, Franco. "Abstract Models for Literary History——1." In *Graphs, Maps, Trees: Abstract Models for Literary History*. Verso, 2007.
- Byszuk, Joanna. "On Computers in Text Analysis." (BHDH pp. 159–168)
- Schofield, Alexandra. "The Possibilities and Limitations of Natural Language Processing for the Humanities." (BHDH pp. 169–178)

TEI Lab due tonight (September 16) by 11:59 p.m.

4. September 23

- Reading quiz
- Discussion: How are we meant to read *with* computers? What kinds of critical practices does such reading enable?
- Torre, Silvia Gutiérrez de la. "Corpus Analysis with Voyant Tools." Translated by Eime Javier Cisneros Brito and Alberto Santiago Martínez. Programming Historian, no. 14 (June 2025). https://doi.org/10.46430/phen0128.
- Voyant Lab

Homework

- Voyant Lab
- Posner, Miriam. "What's Next: The Radical, Unrealized Potential of Digital Humanities" In *Debates in the Digital Humanities* 2016, edited by Matthew K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein. University of Minnesota Press, 2016. https://doi.org/10.5749/j.ctt1cn6thb.
- Ledesma, Eduardo. "Critical AI Studies and the Foreign Language Disciplines: What Is to Be Done?" *PMLA/Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, October 8, 2024, 1–8. https://doi.org/10.1632/S0030812924000567.

5. September 30

- Discussion: What has changed between the publication of Posner's article (2016) and the publication of Ledesma's (2024)?
- In class: Read Petschesky, Barry. "It Took Many Years And Billions Of Dollars, But Microsoft Finally Invented A Calculator That Is Wrong Sometimes" in *Defector*, 20 August 2025. Link
- Discussion: In this class so far, what has been your experience using "old-school" tools like TEI XML encoding and Voyant, without the assistance of generative AI?

Homework

- Dombroski, Quinn. "Does Coding Matter for Doing Digital Humanities?" (BHDH pp. 137–146)
- Da, Nan Z. "The Computational Case against Computational Literary Studies." *Critical Inquiry* 45, no. 3 (2019): 601–39. https://doi.org/10.1086/702594.
- Barrett, Paul. "Unjust Readings: Against the New New Criticism." *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 19, no. 1 (2025). https://dhq.digitalhumanities.org/vol/19/1/000764/000764.html

Voyant Lab due tonight (September 30) by 11:59 p.m.

6. October 7

- (Last day to drop a class)
- (Last day to opt for pass/fail)
- (Tentative) GIS Lab led by Carolyn Talmadge

Homework

- Finish GIS Lab
- Toth, Gabor Mihaly. "Women in Early Modern Handwritten News: Random Walks and Semantic Wanderings in the Medici Archive." *Journal of Digital History* 3, no. 2 (2024). link
- Hicks, Michael Townsen, James Humphries, and Joe Slater. "ChatGPT Is Bullshit." *Ethics and Information Technology* 26, no. 2 (2024). link
- Mandelkern, Matthew, and Tal Linzen. "Do Language Models' Words Refer?" *Computational Linguistics* 50, no. 3 (2024): 1191–200. link

7. October 14

- Discussion: How does AI shape our access to information? It what ways has it changed our epistemological environment? Can we reclaim anything that has been lost?
- Python environment setup
- PyHum 1 (The Basics of Python)
- Web Scraping Lab

Homework

- Eve, Martin Paul. "Open Access in the Humanities Disciplines." (BHDH pp. 223–232)
- Egan, Patrick and Órla Murphy. "Sharing as CARE and FAIR in the Digital Humanities." (BHDH pp. 267–272)
- Alvarado, Rafael. "Datawork and the Future of Digital Humanities." (BHDH pp. 361–372)
- Web Scraping Lab

8. October 21

- Reading quiz
- Discussion: What is datawork? What does it have to do with our work in this class, and how might it shape our understanding of DH in general?
- Python environment troubleshooting
- Web scraping debugging
- PyHum 2 (Data Analysis with Pandas)

Homework

Web Scraping Lab due tonight (October 14) by 11:59 p.m.

9. October 28

- Python debugging
- PyHum 3 (Natural Language Processing with spaCy)
- NLP Lab

Homework

- Herrmann, J Berenike. "Tool Criticism in Practice. On Methods, Tools and Aims of Computational Literary Studies." *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 17, no. 2 (2023).
- Kemman, Max. "Tool Criticism through Playful Digital Humanities Pedagogy." (BHDH pp. 287–294)
- Sichani, Anna-Maria. "Embracing Decline in Digital Scholarship beyond Sustainability." (BHDH pp. 317–324)
- NLP Lab

10. November 4

- Discussion: How do the tools that we use affect our understanding of the materials we study?
- PyHum 4 (Other Applications of Python)

Homework

- Benjamin, Walter. "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction." In *Illuminations*, edited by Hannah Arendt, translated by Harry Zohn. Schocken Books, 1969.
- Berry, David M. "AI, Ethics, and Digital Humanities." (BHDH pp. 445–458)

NLP Lab due tonight (November 4) by 11:59 p.m.

November 11 – No class (Veteran's Day)

11. November 18

- Discussion: How can we use computational methods responsibly in the humanities?
- PyHum 5 (Designing an Application with Streamlit)

Homework

- Allen, Graham and Jennifer Debie. "Digital Humanities in the Age of Extinction." (BHDH pp. 459–465)

12. November 25

- In-class work and feedback on final projects

13. December 2

- In-class work and feedback on final projects

December 20 – Final Projects Due