Assignment 3 – Due October 2, 2018

1. **Article "Performative Materiality and Theoretical Approaches to Interface" by Johanna Drucker**

   Johanna Drucker is one of the leading scholars in Digital Humanities. In her work, she stresses the humanities focus in Digital Humanities, proposing that we need "humanities tools in digital environments instead of digital tools for the humanities." She even coined a new term for Digital Humanities: "Speculative Computing." In her article "Performative Materiality and Theoretical Approaches to Interface," she discusses the material aspects of hardware, software, digital interfaces and artifacts; a new way of thinking about them in terms of performance; and the way this should impact our design processes as digital humanists.
   Assignment: Read the article (online at: http://digitalhumanities.org:8081/dhq/vol/7/1/000143/000143.html) and comment on it in Annotation Studio (http://mit.annotationstudio.org). Discuss some of Johanna's core ideas in the design of interfaces. Add a minimum of five annotations, and add links to other materials if appropriate. Also, please use the tag ***pro*** *or* ***con*** if you support or contradict her argument. This way, we can better organize the discussion in class.
   I also encourage you to watch the video recording of Johanna Drucker's keynote "Humanistic Approaches to the Graphical Expression of Interpretation" at HyperStudio's *Visual Interpretations* conference in 2010. Her talk begins at minute 17: http://techtv.mit.edu/videos/16677-humanistic-approaches-to-the-graphical-expression-of-interpretation-mit-communications-forum

2. **Experimentation with temporal display**

   Hopefully inspired by Johanna Drucker's article, we would like you to experiment with the display of historical events. As shown at the end of class, we'll work with events data that have been used in the *US-Iran Relations* project. The Excel spreadsheets are under **Data** on our Stellar site. There are four different event sets, covering different time spans in US-Iran relations.
   Ideally working in pairs, you can either use one of the listed timeline tools under Tools on our Stellar site; or you can use JavaScript libraries such as D3 or vis.js (http://visjs.org/) if you are familiar with JavaScript, HTML, SVG, and CSS (https://d3js.org); or you could sketch out an innovative temporal visualization of these events.
   For your implementation, please keep in mind that these events are points in a contested relationship between the two countries and many of the events have different (and often conflicting) interpretation and value for each side. Is there a way to appropriately represent this relationship through an innovative use of timelines? Here's a bare-bones info website for the project: http://usiran-info.mit.edu

Post your solutions under Project Updates on our Github site.

3. **Final Project Discussions**

   Post the ideas from your group under Project Updates on our Github site. You can post one or multiple ideas from each group. Please mention the following three aspects in a short paragraph that will function as the basis for a project pitch next week in class:
   a. Question or problem that you are trying to solve with your project.
   b. Potential audience
   c. Delivery platform (mobile, web, physical display, etc.)