# Carleton University Department of English Language and Literature Fall 2016 English 2400/DIGH 2001 Sec. A

# **Introduction to Digital Humanities**



\*Preliminary Outline - subject to change

Wed. and Fri. 2:35-3:55 Room: 236 TB (confirm location on Carleton Central)

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing

Instructor: David Stymeist

Office:

Office Phone: TBA

Email:

Office Hours: Weds. 12-1, or by appointment.

## **Course Description**

**Digital Humanities** involves the intersection of digital technology with traditional humanities disciplines.

In academic terms, the field of Humanities represents our critical study of the expressions of human culture, (literature, theatre, history, art, linguistics, geography, and philosophy). Digital tools and technologies have enabled both artists and critics to expand and revolutionize their practices. Not only have electronic resources and tools

shaped almost every current project in the Humanities, but the concepts and modes of the digital world continue to shape our intellectual and social processes.

This course is designed as an introductory investigation of the new and everchanging world of Digital Humanities.

Some of the topics that we will examine include digital text analysis and mapping tools, new digital literary genres, video-game narrative, hypertext, electronic poetry, social media narrative, blogging, project coding, data mining and privacy, digital archives in the humanities, database research, facsimile reproduction, and electronic curatorial projects.

Previous experience with computer programming, coding, or scholarly software is not required, although students must be open to reading and writing with various media, and exploring new digital tools.

Classes will consist of a combination of lectures and discussion. I expect every student to attend lectures and come prepared to engage in a lively discussion of the works, practices, and tools in question. This is a second year course and classes will emphasize active learning. The more you are willing to put into the class, the more you will get out of it!

#### **Texts and Tools:**

Online article readings (*A Companion to Digital Literary Studies*, *JDH*, *JHQ*, etc.) Library Access to Electronic Databases and Archives.

Online text analysis tools.

Fallout: New Vegas (Bethesda Softworks), any platform.

Mark Amerika, *Grammatron* (on-line).

Jorge Luis Borges, "The Garden of Forking Paths." (e-text)

## **Required Term Assignments**

Critical review of blog, website, or DH online project	20%
Digital Project, or Research Essay	60%
Participation & Attendance	10%
Term Tests	10%

Note: The Digital Project might entail setting up a Blog, or Website on a Humanities topic of special interest to you and entering a number of posts, **or** entering a number of new Wikipedia (or other online encyclopedia or wiki) entries on literary or humanities topics, authors, texts, **or** producing a rudimentary DH archival or curatorial site.

### **Course Regulations**

The mark distribution for the year will be Term Grade: 100%. Class participation marks will include participation in class discussion, response to written comments on graded assignments, consistent attendance, and full reading preparation for each assigned text. Consistent attendance is required in this class; students failing to attend an absolute **minimum of 20%** of the classes will not receive grades for their assignments.

All assignments must be handed in on the date specified unless cleared previously with the professor. Papers must be handed to me in person or to the drop box in the English department office (1812 Dunton Tower) on the due date. If you choose to use the drop box, you must be prepared to incur any late penalties that may accumulate due to the unlikely occurrence of the paper's loss or misfiling.

Late papers and projects will be penalized 2% per day that the assignment is overdue. Papers without medical extension will not be accepted after two weeks of the due date. No faxes or emails of essays will be accepted. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. Students can expect to receive graded feedback in a timely manner; the instructor reserves the right to limit commentary on late essays. Students are required to submit all major assignments (review, essay or digital project, tests) in order to pass the course as a whole.

Class etiquette: All digital activity in the class with personal devices should be directly connected to class activity; in other words, you shouldn't be checking your Facebook page.

#### **Grading System:**

Assignments in this course will be graded using the letter grading system: A-, A, A+ (Excellent); B-, B, B+ (Good); C-,C, C+ (Satisfactory); D, D+ (Minimal pass); F (Failure). Percentage conversion: A+ (90-100%), A (85-89), A- (80-84), B+ (77-79), B (73-76), B- (70-72), C+ (67-69), C (63-66), C- (60-62), D+ (57-59), D (53-56), D (50-52), F (0-49).

## **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own."

This can include:

- --reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- --submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- --using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- --using another's data or research findings;
- --failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;

--handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

#### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the <a href="PMC website">PMC website</a> for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).