

## Introduction to Digital Humanities: Global Encounters and Perspectives\*

Princeton University  
Fall 2018  
TuTh 1:30pm – 2:50pm  
East Pyne, 027

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*How can computational methods help us understand texts? What do interactive digital maps tell us about our reading of Borges's Fictions or Gabriel García Márquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude? How can social network analysis allow us to visualize the relationships among characters or large bodies of text more clearly and in new ways? This course will introduce students to key debates and approaches in the Digital Humanities from a **global** perspective. We will work through the historic foundations of this field while also discussing key concepts and concerns involving access, maintenance, and care for digital projects over time in regions with connectivity restrictions and other types of restraints. Each unit will involve several theoretical readings coupled with critiques of existing projects and experimentation with different programs and platforms in Digital Humanities.*

*The semester will be divided into seminar and studio sessions. On seminar days, we will analyze primary and secondary readings and identify features we want understand and learn about from specific tools. On studio days, we will work in RBSC with primary source material from collections such as the Latin American Ephemera Collection and Latin American Authors' Papers to gather data, which we will use to work with various software, platforms, and databases. We will work in small teams during these studio days to help build skills in literary/computational analysis, data collection, and DH research, all while thinking critically about the problems that DH platforms do and do not resolve in regions of the Global South.*

### Course Objectives:

1. Understanding the Digital Humanities – and its debates – from a global perspective.
2. Familiarity with and working knowledge of various software, platforms, and databases.

### Select Reading List:

Johanna Drucker, et. al., *Introduction to Digital Humanities* (2013)  
Matthew K. Gold & Lauren F. Klein (Eds.), *Debates in the Digital Humanities* (2012; 2016)  
Constance Crompton, Richard J. Lane, and Ray Siemens (Eds.), *doing digital humanities research: practice, training, research.* (2016)

*\*\*All articles and readings will be available online\*\**

### Online Resources:

“The Programming Historian” (<http://programminghistorian.org/>)  
DH Toolbox (<https://www.hastac.org/blogs/kallewesterling/2015/05/27/dh-toolbox>)  
CodeAcademy (<https://www.codecademy.com/>)

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\* This syllabus is subject to change. [Last updated: October 5, 2018]

Treehouse (<https://teamtreehouse.com/>)  
DiRT (<http://dirtdirectory.org/>)

### **Assignments:**

#### **1. Reflection Papers (20%)**

*At the end of each studio session, you will write a 1-page reflection paper on the digital tools and archival material that you interacted with for the week: what did you learn? What you did do well? What do you wish you had done differently? What problems arose? How did you work toward solving these problems?*

#### **2. Class Discussion Leader/Article Review (10% leader; 10% article review)**

*Serve as discussion leader for 1 methodological/theoretical source. When it's your turn, please write a 1-page summary of the article's research intervention, methods, and evidence, and identify 2-3 questions you'd like the group to consider. Please post your handout by 5 pm on the day before class. Over the semester, we'll amass about 15 pages of reading guides that you can cite in your annotations, conference papers, grant proposals, or research projects.*

#### **3. Take-home Midterm (20%)**

#### **4. Final Project (30% final project; 5% proposal and planning materials):**

*Over the course of the semester we will learn about, engage with, and critique a number of tools and projects within the field of the digital humanities. In an effort to think deeply about the specific platforms and methodologies that best suite your own personal research interests – whether these pertain to Latin America or those of other Global regions –, you will write a 10-15pp. proposal for a future project you hope to undertake. Your proposal should mention what you hope to learn, why you're drawn to certain themes, tools, or initiatives, and what primary source materials you will rely on for data. You should also mention what challenges you anticipate, how you plan to respond to them, and a general timeline for your slated project.*

#### **5. Participation (10%)**

*Weekly attendance in class; thoughtful contributions to discussion. Short, written critiques of digital projects (announced throughout the semester).*

### **Orientations**

*Thursday, September 13*

Matthew Kirschenbaum, "What is Digital Humanities and What's It Doing in English Departments?," pp. 3-11, and Rafael Alvarado, "The Digital Humanities Situation," *Debates in DH* (2012), pp. 50-55 [ebook available online through Princeton Library]  
Alan Liu, "The Meaning of the Digital Humanities" *PMLA* 128.2 (2013): 409-23.

*Tuesday, September 18 (RBSC)*

[Visit each of the following digital projects and choose one to critique (1-2 paragraphs)]  
*Valley of the Shadow* (<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/>)  
*The Geography of Slavery in Virginia* (<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/index.html>)  
*Piers Plowman Electronic Archive* (<http://piers.chass.ncsu.edu/index.html>)  
*Pompeii Forum Project* (<http://pompeii.virginia.edu/>)  
*The Mayan Epigraphic Database Project* (<http://www2.iath.virginia.edu/med/>)

## Media Literacies & Classification Systems

*Thursday, September 20*

\*Tibor Koltay, "The Media and the Literacies: Media Literacies, Information Literacy, Digital Literacy," *Media, Culture & Society* 33.2 (2011): 211-221.

Paul A. Kirschner & Pedro De Bruyckere, "The myths of the digital native and the multitasker," *Teaching and Teacher Education* 27 (2017): 135-142.

\*Cornelius Puschmann & Marco Bastos, "How Digital Are the Digital Humanities? An Analysis of Two Scholarly Blogging Platforms" *PLoS ONE* 10.2 (2015).

*Tuesday, September 25 (RBSC)*

Michel Foucault, "Preface," *The Order of Things*

([https://serendipstudio.org/sci\\_cult/evolit/s05/prefaceOrderFoucault.pdf](https://serendipstudio.org/sci_cult/evolit/s05/prefaceOrderFoucault.pdf))

Alberto Manguel, "The Library as Order," *The Library at Night* (PDF)

Jorge Luis Borges, "The Analytical Language of John Wilkins," *Other Inquisitions* (PDF)

Browse Princeton's "Latin American Ephemera Collection":

<https://libguides.princeton.edu/laec>

\*What types of materials are in this collection?

\*How is the collection organized?

## Minimal Computing (Access, Maintenance & Care)

*Thursday, September 27*

\*Tara McPherson, "Why are the Digital Humanities So White? or Thinking the Histories of Race and Computation," *Debates in DH* (2012), pp. 139-160.

Ernesto Priani Saisó, "Finding Support for Disruption: Developing a Digital Humanities Project in Mexico." *ASLib Proceedings* 64.1 (2012): 97-103.

Ramona Pringle, "The Internet Can Be a Powerful Tool for Good, But Only if Everyone Can Get Online." *CBC News*. 16 Dec 2017 (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/ramona-pringle-equal-access-internet-1.4447109>)

*Tuesday, October 2*

\*Élika Ortega and Alex Gil, "Global Outlooks in Digital Humanities: Multilingual Practices and Minimal Computing," *Doing Digital Humanities Research*, 22-32.

Alan Liu, "Digital Humanities Diversity as Technical Problem"

(<http://liu.english.ucsb.edu/digital-humanities-diversity-as-technical-problem/>)

[Visit the following site and choose one included project to critique (1-2 paragraphs)]

*Around DH in 80 Days* (<http://www.arounddh.org/about/>)

## Planning a Project – Scope, Limitations, etc.

*Thursday, October 4*

\*Stephen Ramsay & Geoffrey Rockwell, "Developing Things: Notes toward an Epistemology of Building in the Digital Humanities," *Debates in DH* (2012), pp. 75-84.

Jorge Luis Borges, "The Book of Sand" (PDF)

Lynne Siemens, "Project management and the digital humanist," *doing digital humanities* (PDF)

*Tuesday, October 9 (RBSC)*

Alan Liu, "Where is Cultural Criticism in the Digital Humanities?," *Debates in DH* (2012), pp. 490-509

*\*Research the various outlets, both internal and external to Princeton, that give financial support (grants, fellowships, etc.) for DH projects. How are these initiatives structured? Do they tend to favor specific types of DH work? What do you need to apply?*

*Sample NEH Digital Project Grant (Awarded)*

[https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/stanford\\_university\\_data-driven\\_tools\\_for\\_analyzing\\_relationships\\_across\\_time\\_0.pdf](https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/stanford_university_data-driven_tools_for_analyzing_relationships_across_time_0.pdf)

## Markup & Semantics

*Thursday, October 11*

William J. Turkel & Adam Crymble, "Understanding Web Pages and HTML" (<http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/viewing-html-files>)

*Register for CodeAcademy and practice with various programming languages* (<https://www.codecademy.com/>)

*Tuesday, October 16 (RBSC)*

\*Julia Flanders, et al., "Text encoding," *doing digital humanities* (PDF)

"A Very Gentle Introduction to the TEI markup language" (<http://www.tei-c.org/Vault/Tutorials/mueller-index.htm>)

## Archives & Databases

*Thursday, October 18*

Jorge Téllez, "Introduction: The Mexican Literary Archive," *Hispanic Review* 86.2 (2018): 137-144

\*Élika Ortega, "Archives, Libraries, Collections, and Databases: A First Look at Digital Literary Studies in Mexico," *Hispanic Review* 86.2 (2018): 229-247

Jorge Luis Borges, "The Library of Babel," *Ficciones*. (PDF)

- *Also visit:* <https://libraryofbabel.info/>

*Check out Princeton's extensive Latin American literary archives:*

<https://libguides.princeton.edu/latinammss>

- *Select (at least) one collection to look at closely.*

*Tuesday, October 23 (RBSC)*

Jerome McGann, "Database, Interface, and Archival Fever" (2007)

Miriam Posner, "Up and Running with Omeka" (<http://miriamposner.com/blog/up-and-running-with-omeka-net/>)

"About the Digital Archive of Latin American and Caribbean Ephemera"

(<https://lae.princeton.edu/about>)

- \*What is the purpose of this archive?
- \*What are some restrictions?

## Visualization & Network Analysis

Thursday, October 25

\*Johanna Drucker, "Interpreting Visualization :: Visualizing Interpretation," *Graphesis: Visual Forms of Knowledge Production* (2014) (PDF)

[Visit the following digital projects and write a critique of one (1-2 paragraphs)]

"Mapping the Republic of Letters" (<http://republicofletters.stanford.edu/>)

"Linked Jazz" (<https://linkedjazz.org/>) ; (<https://linkedjazz.org/network/>)

"A Co-Citation Network for Philosophy"

(<https://kieranhealy.org/blog/archives/2013/06/18/a-co-citation-network-for-philosophy/>)

**\*\*Fall Break\*\* (Oct. 27 – Nov. 4)**

Tuesday, November 6 (RBSC)

Marten Düring, "From Hermeneutics to Data Networks: Data Extraction and Network Visualization of Historical Sources" (<https://programminghistorian.org/en/lessons/creating-network-diagrams-from-historical-sources>)

Explore the documentation for "Palladio" (<http://hdlab.stanford.edu/palladio/#/>)

-What types of visualizations does this tool allow for?

-How do you need to structure your data?

## Maps & (Digital) Storytelling

Thursday, November 8

Jorge Luis Borges, "On the Exactitude of Science" (PDF)

\*Bethany Nowviskie, et al., "Geo-Temporal Interpretation of Archival Collections Using Neatline" *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* 28.4 (2013)

Armida de la Garza, "Aboriginal Digitalities: Indigenous Peoples and New Media," *The Digital Arts and Humanities* (2016): 49-62.

Explore "Neatline" (<http://neatline.org/about/>);

(<http://docs.neatline.org/communitydocs.html>); (<http://neatline.org/demos/>)

Tuesday, November 13 (RBSC)

Explore "Story Maps" (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/>)

Explore "TimeMapper" (<http://timemapper.okfnlabs.org/>)

## Print-to-Pixel Transfers & Text Analysis

Thursday, November 15

\*Andrew Stauffer, "My Old Sweethearts: On Digitization and the Future of the Print Record," *Debates in the Digital Humanities* (2016)

Hannah Alpert-Abrams, "Machine Reading the *Primeros Libros*," *DHQ* 10.4 (2016): <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/10/4/000268/000268.html>

G. Thomas Tanselle, "Reproductions and Scholarship," *Studies in Bibliography* 42 (1989): 25-54.

*Tuesday, November 20*

Tanya E. Clement, "The Ground Truth of DH Text Mining," *Debates in DH* (2016), pp. 534-5

\*Shlomo Argamon, "Words, Patterns and Documents: Experiments in Machine Learning and Text Analysis," *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 3.2 (2009):

<http://digitalhumanities.org:8081/dhq/vol/3/2/000041/000041.html>

Alison N. Novak, Kristine Johnson, and Manuel Pontes, "LatinoTwitter: Discourses of Latino Civic Engagement in Social Media." *First Monday* 21.8 (1 August 2016):

<http://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/6752/5604>

[Visit the following digital project and write a critique (1-2 paragraphs)]

"Dash-Amerikan" (<http://dashamerikan.scholarslab.org/>)

**\*\*Thanksgiving Break\*\* (Nov. 21 – Nov. 25)**

## Digital Editions & Electronic Literature

*Tuesday, November 27*

\*Amy E. Earhart, "The Digital Edition and the Digital Humanities." *Textual Cultures* 7.1 (2012): 18-28.

Amanda Visconti, "Experimental Editions: Digital Editions as Methodological Prototypes" (<http://literaturegeek.com/2013/06/26/experimental-editions>)

Jennifer Stertzer, "Foundations for digital editing, with a focus on the documentary tradition," *doing digital humanities* (PDF)

[Visit the following digital projects and write a critique about *one* (1-2 paragraphs)]

"Popol Wuj" (<https://library.osu.edu/projects/popolwuj/index.php>)

*Biblioteca Digital del Pensamiento Novohispano* (<http://www.bdpn.unam.mx/>) [**Spanish**]

"Infinite Ulysses" (<http://infiniteulysses.com/>)

*Thursday, November 29 (RBSC)*

Matthew G. Kirschenbaum, "Materiality and Matter and Stuff: What Electronic Texts Are Made Of." *Electronic book review*. 1 October 2001.

<http://www.electronicbookreview.com/thread/electropoetics/sited>

N. Katherine Hayles, "Electronic Literature. What is it?" *doing digital humanities* (PDF)

Dene Grigar, "Electronic Literature. Where is it?" *doing digital humanities* (PDF)

## Preservation & Maintenance

*Tuesday, December 4*

\*Ashley Reed, "Managing an Established Digital Humanities Project: Principles and Practices from the Twentieth Year of the William Blake Archive," *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 8.1 (2014): <http://digitalhumanities.org:8081/dhq/vol/8/1/000174/000174.html>

\*Visit the newly updated William Blake Archive (<http://www.blakearchive.org/>)

Jennifer Howard, "Born Digital, Projects Need Attention to Survive"

(<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Born-Digital-Projects-Need/143799>)

Diana Taylor, "SAVE AS...Memory and the Archive in the Age of Digital Technologies" (<http://townsendcenter.berkeley.edu/media/diana-taylor-performance-studies-and-spanish-nyu>)

*Thursday, December 6 (RBSC)*

*\*Tour of RBSC born-digital preservation labs\**

Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez, "Invisible Defaults and Perceived Limitations: Processing the Juan Gelman Files" (<https://medium.com/on-archivy/invisible-defaults-and-perceived-limitations-processing-the-juan-gelman-files-4187fdd36759>)

Matthew Kirschenbaum, "The .txtual Condition: Digital Humanities, Born-Digital Archives, and the Future Literary" (<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/7/1/000151/000151.html>)

### **The Future of (Latinx) Digital Humanities**

*Tuesday, December 11*

Sara Tubbs, "UH Receives Funding to Establish First U.S. Digital Humanities Center for Latina/o Studies" (<http://www.uh.edu/news-events/stories/2017/august/08152017First-digital-humanities-center-for-latino-latina-studies.php>)

Isabel Galina, "Is There Anybody Out There? Building a Global Digital Humanities Community." *Humanidades Digitales*. 19 julio 2013:

<http://humanidadesdigitales.net/blog/2013/07/19/is-there-anybody-out-there-building-a-global-digital-humanities-community/>

Carolina Gainza, "Networks of Collaboration and Creation in Latin American Digital Literature." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 19.1 (2017): 2-8.

*Thursday, December 13 (RBSC)*

*\*Students present project proposals to the class\**