



GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF LITERATURE, COMMUNICATION, AND CULTURE
SPRING 2012

LCC 3843 N: Digital Humanities
TTh 12:05-1:25pm, Skiles 302

Professor: Lauren Klein (lauren.klein@lcc.gatech.edu)
Office Hours: TTh 11:00am-noon, Skiles 359 (and by appointment)
Course Website: <http://lkle.in/lcc3843>

Course Description

This course begins with the basic premise that theoretical concepts can be engaged through method. To this end, we will explore the theories that underlie digital humanities scholarship—in particular, as they relate to literary studies—through the practice of three major sets of methods associated with this emerging field. The first set will explore the tools and techniques related to mapping and spatial visualization; the second will concern techniques for the visualization and quantitative analysis of texts; and the third will address the creation of digital editions and archives. With the knowledge of these methods, as well as their underlying theories, students will be able to conceive and implement their own digital projects for their future scholarly work.

Required and Recommended Texts

Available at both BN@GT and Engineer's Bookstore:

Matthew K. Gold, ed. *Debates in the Digital Humanities* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012) ISBN: 978-0816677955 (*recommended*)
Franco Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees: Abstract Models for Literary History* (Verso, 2007) ISBN: 978-1844671854
Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire* (Vintage, 1989) ISBN: 978-0679723424
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (Harcourt-Mariner, 2005) ISBN: 978-0156030359

Additional readings to be posted on course website.

Course Requirements

Reading Assignments

Because of the methodological orientation of the course, we will be reading a substantial amount of contemporary criticism, in addition to the short literary works that will serve as the basis for our digital scholarship. This criticism will include blog posts and working papers, as well as more conventional scholarly essays. Because these texts will inform

our classroom discussions—and what you, in particular, have to contribute—it is absolutely essential that you stay on top of the reading assignments and complete them before the start of each class. Reading assignments are assessed through classroom participation.

Writing Assignments

Throughout the semester, you will be asked to participate on the class blog, both formally (in the form of structured online assignments) and informally (in the form of comments, links, etc.). The online assignments are designed to allow you to process the reading (or other objects of study) and/or generate new ideas in an open, collaborative setting. Please take advantage of this opportunity and complete each written assignment on time.

- Unless otherwise indicated, online assignments must be posted by midnight on the night before the class meeting.

Digital Projects

You will be completing three small digital projects in addition to the final project (described below). These projects will be conducted in groups, and are due as specified on the schedule. You will be evaluated *not* by technical expertise, but rather by how your project engages with the methods and theories that we will have discussed.

Final Project

In lieu of an exam or a research paper, you will be completing a final project, to be conducted in groups. The project will be a proof of concept for a line of digital humanities inquiry—that is, a visible demonstration of the potential of that inquiry should it be fully realized. The proof of concept will be developed through a series of assignments, including an oral presentation, and will culminate in a collaboratively-authored blog post, website, or appropriate digital form, that demonstrates the rationale behind, and potential for, that inquiry.

Attendance, Punctuality, and Late/Skipped Assignments

You are allowed three excused absences. Beginning with the fourth absence, your overall course grade will be lowered by a full letter grade (e.g. A to B) for each unexcused absence. This means that if you miss more than six classes, you will fail the course.

Please be respectful to your fellow students and arrive on time. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, you will be considered absent for that class. If you absolutely must miss a class meeting, please contact me at least 24 hours in advance in order to make alternate arrangements.

All assignments are mandatory. Should you submit an assignment after the due date, your grade for that assignment will decrease by a full letter grade for each day that it is late. Should you fail to submit an assignment entirely, you will receive an F on that assignment and, consequently, you will receive a lower grade for the course.

Grading

Your grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

- Class participation: 10%
- Online assignments: 20%
- Digital projects: 15% each (45% total)
- Final project: 25%

All assignments are graded on an A-F scale.

If you are curious about the criteria I employ when grading written assignments, please consult the following document, prepared by the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University:

<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/html/icb.topic58474/GradingPapers.html>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offense. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment and possibly in the course, as well as potential disciplinary action. For more information, please refer to the definition of “academic misconduct” included in the Georgia Tech honor code, available online at:

<http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>

If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me before submitting your assignment.

Writing Support

As of this fall, the Georgia Tech communication center, CommLab, is now open for undergraduate (and graduate) use. At CommLab, professional and peer tutors are available to work with you to improve your writing skills. More information, including instructions for how to set up an appointment via the website, is available here:

Clough Learning Commons, Suite 447

Phone: (404) 385-3612

Email: commmlab@gatech.edu

<http://www.lcc.gatech.edu/writingcomm/commcenter/>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should self-report to the Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) at:

Smithgall Student Services Building, Suite 220

Phone: (404) 894-2564

TTD: (404) 894-1664

Email: adaptsinfo@gatech.edu

<http://adapts.gatech.edu/>

Tentative Schedule

Defining Digital Humanities

- **Tuesday, January 10th**
Course Overview

- **Thursday, January 12th**
Patricia Cohen, "[Humanities 2.0: Digital Keys for Unlocking the Humanities' Riches](#)" (web)
Matthew Kirschenbaum, "[What Is Digital Humanities and What's it Doing in English Departments](#)" (web/*DitDH*)
William Pannacker, "[Big Tent Digital Humanities, A View from the Edge, Part 1](#)" (web)

Due

First online assignment – Personal Intro

- **Tuesday, January 17th**
Susan Hockney, "[The History of Humanities Computing](#)" (web)
Patrik Svensson "[The Landscape of Digital Humanities](#)" (web)
Chris Forster, "[I'm Chris. Where am I Wrong?](#)" (web)

- **Thursday, January 19th**
Stephen Ramsay, "[Who's In and Who's Out](#)" (web) and "[On Building](#)" (web)
Mark Sample, "[The Digital Humanities is Not About Building, It's About Sharing](#)" (web)
Tom Scheinfeldt, "[Stuff Digital Humanists Like: Defining Digital Humanities by its Values](#)" (web)

Due

Second online assignment – DH Definition

Geospatial Digital Humanities

- **Tuesday, January 24th**
Jhumpa Lahiri, "Sexy" (PDF)
Jo Guldi, "[What is the Spatial Turn?](#)" (web) and "[The Spatial Turn in Literature](#)" (web)

Tool: Google Maps "[My Maps](#)"

- **Thursday, January 26th**
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (3-64)
Franco Moretti, “Intro” and “Maps” (*Graphs, Maps, Trees* 1-2, 35-64)

Due

Third online assignment – DH Definition Response

- **Tuesday, January 31st**
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (64-128)
Janelle Jenstad, “Using early modern maps in literary studies” (PDF)

Tool: New York Public Library “[Map Warper](#)”

- **Thursday, February 2nd**
NO CLASS MEETING – Professor out of town
“[Litmap](#)”
“[Mapping the Republic of Letters](#)”
“[Hypercities](#)”

Projects listed at:

<http://spatial.scholarslab.org/collections/?colnum=8EB7UQHC>

Due

Fourth online assignment – Mapping Project Evaluation

- **Tuesday, February 7th**
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (128-end)

Tool: [Google Earth](#) (download and install)

- **Thursday, February 9th**

Due:

Mapping Project

Text Analysis and Visualization

- **Tuesday, February 14th**
Jorge Luis Borges, “The Library of Babel” (PDF)
Franco Moretti, “Graphs,” (*GMT* 3-33)
Jean-Baptiste Michel et al., “Quantitative Analysis of Culture Using Millions of Digitized Books” (PDF)

Tools: [Wordle](#), [Google Ngram Viewer](#)

- **Thursday, February 16th**
Matt Thompson, "[Culturomics?](#)" (web)
Geoffrey Rockwell, "What is Text Analysis, Really?" (PDF)
Stephen Ramsay, "[In Praise of Pattern](#)" (web)
- **Tuesday, February 21st**
Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" (PDF)
Franco Moretti, "Trees," (*GMT* 67-92)
Stefan Sinclair, "[Principles of Voyeur](#)" and "[Quick Guide of Voyeur for Users](#)" (web)

Tools: [Many Eyes](#), [Voyeur](#)

- **Thursday, February 23rd**
Lev Manovich, "[What is Visualization?](#)" (web)
Johanna Drucker, "[Humanities Approaches to Graphical Display](#)" (web)

Due:

Fifth online assignment

- **Tuesday, February 28th**
Thomas Jefferson, selected letters TBD
Lauren Klein, "[When Reading Fails](#)" (web)

Tool: *Jigsaw* (Guest demo: Professor John Stasko)

- **Thursday, March 1st**

Due:

Visualization Project

Text Encoding and Digital Editions

- **Tuesday, March 6th**
Emily Dickinson, selected poems
Daniel Cohen and Roy Rosenzweig, "[Becoming Digital: To Mark Up, Or Not To Mark Up](#)" (web)
Susan Schreibman, "Re-Envisioning Versioning: A Scholar's Toolkit" (PDF)

Tool: [Versioning Machine](#)

- **Thursday, March 8th**
Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire* (1-69)
Julie Meloni, "[A Pleasant Little Chat About XML](#)" (web)

- **Tuesday, March 13th**
Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire* (73-222)

Tool: [oXygen](#) (download and register for a trial license)

- **Thursday, March 15th**
Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire* (222-end)
Ed Folsom, “Database as Genre: The Epic Transformation of Archives” (PDF)
Peter Stallybrass et al., “Responses to Ed Folsom’s ‘Database as Genre: The Epic Transformation of Archives’” (PDF)

Due:

Sixth Online Assignment

- **Tuesday, March 20th**
NO CLASS MEETING – Spring Break
- **Thursday, March 22nd**
NO CLASS MEETING – Spring Break
- **Tuesday, March 27th**
Desmond Schmidt, “The Inadequacy of Embedded Markup for Cultural Heritage Texts” (PDF)
Peter Robinson, “What text really is not, and why editors have to learn to swim” (PDF)
TEI-L, selected messages:
 - [“Changes on the TEI Board”](#)
 - [“Re: Changes on the TEI Board”](#) (including letter, link within)
 - [“Statement from the TEI Technical Council”](#)
 - [“The Future of the TEI”](#) (including statement, link within)
 - [“Future of the TEI”](#) (and skim subsequent thread)
 - [“Present and Future of TEI”](#) (and skim subsequent thread)
 - [“‘Full statement’ from the Board? Where?”](#) (and skim subsequent thread)
- **Thursday, March 29th**

Due:

Digital Edition Project

A Return to Theory (and Final Projects)

- **Tuesday, April 3rd**
John Unsworth, [“What is Humanities Computing and What is Not”](#)
Julia Flanders, [“The Productive Unease of 21st-century Digital](#)

[Scholarship](#)” (web)
“[Bloomsburg U. Undergraduate ‘Manifesto’ on Digital Humanities](#)”
Rebecca Davis, “[Digital Humanities and the Undergrad](#)” (watch video)

- **Thursday, April 5th**
NO CLASS MEETING – Talk at GVV Center, 11:30-1pm
- **Tuesday, April 10th**
Alan Liu, “[Where is Cultural Criticism in the Digital Humanities](#)” (web)
Tom Scheinfeldt, “[Where’s the Beef? Does Digital Humanities Have to Answer Questions?](#)” (web)
Ian Bogost, “Beyond the Elbow-Patched Playground,” [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) (web)
- **Thursday, April 12th**
NO CLASS MEETING – Professor out of town

Due:

Seventh Online Assignment – Final Project Proposal

- **Tuesday, April 17th**
Tara McPherson, “Why Are the Digital Humanities So White? or Thinking the Histories of Race and Computation” (PDF)
Bethany Nowviskie, “[What Do Girls Dig?](#)” (web)
Liz Losh, “Hacktivism and the Humanities: Programming Protest in the Era of the Digital University” (PDF)
- **Thursday, April 19th**
NO CLASS MEETING – Professor out of town

Due:

Eighth Online Assignment – Final Project Alpha

- **Tuesday, April 24th**
Project Presentations
- **Thursday, April 26th**
Project Presentations

Tuesday, May 1st – FINAL PROJECT DUE