DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Section: LIS–657–01  
Semester: Fall 2014  
Meeting Information: Thursdays, 6:30–8:50 pm  
Location: PMC, Room 613  
Credits: 3  
Prerequisites: None  

Chris Alen Sula, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:10 – 6:10 pm or by appt  
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e  csula@pratt.edu  
w  http://chrisalensula.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the history, theory, and practice of digital humanities, paying special attention to the ways in which digital humanities are transforming research, disciplines, and even the academy itself. Topics include contrasts and continuities between traditional and digital humanities; tools and techniques used by digital humanists; the processes of planning, funding, managing, and evaluating digital humanities projects; ways in which the digital humanities impact scholarly communication and higher education; and the special roles of libraries and information professionals in this growing movement.

COURSE GOALS + LEARNING OUTCOMES

The goals of this course are to:

• explore various theoretical and applied perspectives on the digital humanities  
• develop familiarity with a wide range of digital humanities projects, methods, and tools  
• build skills in planning, developing, and evaluating digital humanities projects

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

• critically discuss digital humanities in the light of current theories and methods  
• explain how digital humanities methods and practices are applied in different disciplines  
• conduct basic digital humanities research and research-supporting activities  
• facilitate digital humanities work at various levels and stages

REQUIRED TEXTS

• Anne Burdick, Johanna Drucker, Peter Lunenfeld, Todd Presner, and Jeffrey Schnapp. Digital_Humanities (MIT Press, 2012) [open access edition at http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/digitalhumanities-0]  
• Franco Moretti, Graphs, Maps, Trees: Abstract Models for Literary History (Verso, 2007) [ISBN 9781844671854]  
• Additional readings [available on Learning Management System via my.pratt.edu]
COURSE WEBSITE

All students enrolled in the course have access to course materials on Pratt’s Learning Management System (a Moodle installation) available at my.pratt.edu. Please make sure you know how to access LMS and use Moodle. Also, please note that LMS facilitates communication using Pratt e-mail only. If you do not use your Pratt account, please use webmail to forward your Pratt e-mail to an account that you do use.

COURSE FORMAT

This course is a survey of digital humanities, which includes presentations, lecture, and discussion. Each student is required to read the articles assigned on a weekly basis in advance of the session for which they are assigned. Each class will be devoted to discussion of the required readings for that week, as well as student work pertaining to those readings. Students will bring their own ideas, experience, and interpretations to class and will learn from contributing and hearing others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS + ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

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<td>Disciplinary presentation</td>
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<td>DH event &amp; article</td>
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<td>Twitter digest</td>
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<td>Final project</td>
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Disciplinary presentation (20%)
Near the beginning of the semester, students will present digital humanities approaches within a particular discipline. Each student/pair will present on a different discipline and should reference several project examples.

DH event & article (1 article, 20%)
Students will choose at least one DH event (e.g., lecture, un/conference, workshop) to attend during the semester. Each student will submit an article of approx. 1,000 words to dh.prattsils.org within one week of attending the event. The article should describe the event and reflect on its significance for DH/ers. Your article should be informed by our readings and discussions, and you should demonstrate this by citing/using readings where they are relevant. Critical reviews are welcome, and you should write using a style that is suitable for academics and LIS professionals. Your article may be published publicly (recommended) or behind a password.

Twitter digest (for a 1-week period, 20%)
Students will sign up to monitor digital humanities Twitter discussion for a one-week period (Sun–Sat) during the semester. Each student/pair will prepare a Monday morning digest using Storify that covers trending topics/ideas in the field, highlights new tools, announces events, etc. all based on discussion during the previous week. Draft posts may be emailed to csula@pratt.edu by 5pm on Sunday for optional review, and students will make a short presentation of their posts at the start of the class session following their post.

Final project (40%)
Students may complete a range of activities for their final projects including:

- working on an existing digital humanities project, accompanied by critical reflections on that work;
- completing original research in the digital humanities, accompanied by critical reflections on that work;
- developing a grant proposal for a digital humanities project, including project design, implementation, budget, evaluation, and preservation; or
- writing a research paper that reflects on the theory, methodology, or impact of the digital humanities.

Students may work individually or collectively; if collectively, each member must email me a short statement (max 500 words), copied to all other group members, describing their individual contributions to the project. Students should discuss potential projects with me during the semester and have a project description (max 250 words) approved via email by Nov 21. Students will make a short presentation of their draft work in class; revised projects are due to LMS by Dec 21.
GRADING
All graded assignments are due on the date indicated. All assignments will be graded on a rubric basis, with the criteria circulated in advance. Final grades will be awarded as follows:

A  sustained level of superior performance demonstrated in all areas of course requirements
B  consistent level of performance that is above average in a majority of the course requirements
C  performance that is generally average and course requirements are achieved
D  below average performance and achievement of the course requirements
F  accomplishment of the course requirements is not sufficient to receive a passing grade

Late work will not be accepted without prior approval by the professor. Students with health conditions or no-fault hardships are strongly encouraged to notify the professor immediately to discuss their work plan.

E-PORTFOLIO
Students entering the MSLIS degree program in fall 2012 are required to complete an eportfolio that is approved by their advisor before graduation. The eportfolio provides students with an opportunity to showcase their best work from SILS courses and an opportunity to demonstrate they have met the learning objectives of a MSLIS degree. Work completed for this course may be included in the eportfolio, esp. work satisfying bolded areas below. Students must demonstrate that their work jointly fulfills the following learning outcomes:

1. Students carry-out and apply research
2. Students demonstrate excellent communication skills and create and convey content
3. Students use information technology and digital tools effectively
4. Students apply concepts related to use and users of information and user needs and perspectives
5. Students perform within the framework of professional practice

Detailed information on the learning outcomes, requirements and how to create your eportfolio is available from: http://www.pratt.edu/academics/information_and_library_sciences/about_sils/sils_eportfolio/

POLICIES

Academic Integrity & Institute-Wide Policies
Students are expected to adhere to the Academic Integrity Code and Judicial Process of the Pratt Institute. All infractions will be reported, and I am disposed to fail all violators for the entire course. Students must adhere to the Pratt Community Standards listed in the current Student Handbook.

Disabilities
Students who require special accommodations for disabilities must obtain clearance from the Office of Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. For further information, contact the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 718.636.3711.

Missed Sessions and Incompletes
If you miss a session, be sure that you complete the readings, consult your classmates or the professor about the discussion, and (as always) demonstrate your knowledge of previous readings in later sessions. Students with three or more absences for any reason will not receive an A in the course and, in accordance with Pratt Institute policy, may fail the course. The professor is generally allergic to incompletes. Students with health conditions or no-fault hardships are encouraged to notify the professor immediately and discuss options for work plan.

Participation in Faculty Research
Students taking this class may be asked to participate in faculty-sponsored research; all contributions will be appropriately credited.

Revisions to the Syllabus
While this syllabus provides a reliable framework for the course, including readings and assignments, it is subject to change pending notice in class and on the course website.
COURSE SCHEDULE
This is a tentative outline of topics, readings, and assignments. On occasion, I may add, delete, or substitute topics or readings. Changes will be announced in class and posted to LMS; no printed updates will be given.

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<th>WEEK</th>
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<th>TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
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| 1 | 8/28 | **Course Introduction**  
| 2 | 9/4 | **History and Theory of Digital Humanities**  
  - Burdick, Anne, et al. (2012). “Humanities to Digital Humanities” in *Digital_Humanities*, 3–26  
| 3 | 9/11 | **Digital Humanities in the Disciplines**  
  - Student presentations |
| 4 | 9/18 | **The Culture of Digital Humanities**  
  - Kirschenbaum, Matthew (2011). “Digital Humanities As/Is a Tactical Term” in *Debates*  
  - Liu, Alan (2011). “Where Is the Cultural Criticism in Digital Humanities” in *Debates*  
| METHODS | | |
| 6 | 10/2 | **Text Analysis**  
  - Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees*, pp. 3–34  
| 7 | 10/9 | **Geohumanities**  
  - Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees*, pp. 35–66  
8 10/16 **Network Analysis**
- Moretti, *Graphs, Maps, Trees*, pp. 67–96

**IMPACT**

9 10/23 **Digital Humanities and Libraries**

10 10/30 **Higher Education and Scholarly Communication**
- Fitzpatrick, Kathleen (2012). “Beyond Metrics: Community Authorization and Open Peer Review” in *Debates*

11 11/6 **Teaching and Pedagogy**
- Davidson, Cathy (2012). “Why We Need a 4th R: Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic, algoRithms” *DMLcentral*

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

12 11/13 **Planning, Funding, and Digital Preservation**
- Pitti, Daniel (2004). “Designing Sustainable Projects and Publications” in *Companion*
- Smith, Abby (2004). “Preservation” in *Companion*

13 11/20 **Evaluation & Usability**
- Oxford Internet Institute, “Usage and Impact Study of JISC-Funded Phase 1 Digitisation”
Projects & the Toolkit for the Impact of Digitised Scholarly Resources (TIDSR)


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