

ENGL*6691 Interdisciplinary Studies Digital Humanities, Feminism, and Diversity

This course will examine the relatively new field of digital humanities and the way its formation is being shaped in relation to gender and other related aspects of cultural diversity such as race, sexuality, and indigeneity. In so doing it will consider tensions between methodology and content, the debate over theory in relation to digital humanities, and the politics of self-definition in relation to professional and intellectual self-positioning. We will consider some of the ways in which gender has been mobilized as a concept within digital humanities debates and practices within a range of contexts, considering particular areas of controversy within and at the edges of the field including the question of how to encode sex within the Text Encoding Initiative, the approaches taken by a range of feminist projects in the field, text mining and stylistic analyses related to gender, the politics of tools and algorithms, community engagement and intimate publics, and debates over gender and games, including the Gamergate controversy. Within these contexts, we will seek to understand how gender intersects with other identity categories including race, sexuality, class, and geography in the production and consumption of networked knowledge. The course will serve as an introduction to the growing and contested field of digital humanities, but our discursive contexts will also engage with other fields including media studies, human-computer interaction, design, critical theory, and science and technology studies. Participation in the course will involve engagement both with readings and with the hands-on methods of digital humanities, for which we will have dedicated workshop sessions. Participants will apply digital humanities methods in their work for the course.