HIST*4170*01: Exploring Digital Humanities (Winter 2015)

Department of History, College of Arts, University of Guelph

Credit weight: 1.0 credit
Prerequisite: 10.00 credits
Restrictions: Restricted to students in the B.A. Honours program with a minimum of 70% average in all History course attempts.

Instructor: J. Andrew Ross
Office: Mackinnon 2014 Tel: 519-824-4120 x 52279
Hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00, and any other time by appointment
Email: jaross@uoguelph.ca

Class Schedule and Location: TBD

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to new and inter-disciplinary digital humanities approaches, methodologies, and tools, and to explore applications to text, image, map, and other media sources. It will appeal to students in literature, history, fine arts, and music who want an introduction to state-of-the-art digital humanities research. There will be flexibility to accommodate the specific disciplines and interests of the students.

The class will be held once a week and will feature instructor and expert presentations, demonstrations, and discussion. Students will complete weekly readings and assignments, and a major project that applies digital humanities tools. Participation will be evaluated through reflective blog posting, in-class discussion, and peer review.

Learning outcomes

- Increase digital literacy skills, and be able to comprehend and use appropriate language of digital humanities research in their own and related humanities disciplines
- Understand and be able to analyze the advantages of different methodologies of digital humanities inquiry
- Learn to collect, manage, and manipulate digital data from various sources
- Be able to formulate, direct, and complete a digital humanities project, and explain its significance to academic and lay audiences

Evaluation

Participation, Blog and Assignments (60%)

- In-class and outside class (blog) preparation and participation
  - Research, reading
  - Questions, contributions
  - Reflection, commentary
  - Peer helping/collaboration
- Assignments are due *before* class

Digital Humanities Project (40%)

The project is the main focus on the course and aim to have students apply the tools and techniques of Digital Humanities to any humanities subject. It is to be considered as a capstone project, that is: an "intensive, active learning project, requiring significant effort in the planning and implementation, as well as preparation of a substantial final work product." Students are encouraged to start developing topics right away. A Project Plan (1500 words) describing the academic rationale for the project (including literature review) and the plan for execution is due end of February 26 and will form the basis for the Preliminary Project Presentation that introduces the project to the class and takes guidance and feedback Final projects and reports are due mid-April.

Course Resources

Students will set up and maintain *personal blogs* that will serve to communications and project updates. Please note that these will be publically accessible (now and for the foreseeable future) so proper standards of decorum are expected.

D2L Courselink will be used for slides, notes, and marks, and other items for which we want to restrict access.

Required Texts

There is no required text for the course.

Class Schedule

Week 1   **Introduction to Digital History**

- Post-class readings:
    - [A Companion to Digital Humanities](#), Part I, chapter 1, plus another chapter on a specific discipline
    - [Bill Turkel's "Going Digital"](#) to begin to explore digital resources (oriented to history, but can be applied to other disciplines)

Week 2   **Text: Transformation and Mining** (Assignment #1 due)

- Using text analysis: [Voyant tools](#)
- Special Guest: Adam Hammond, Michael Ridley Digital Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow

Week 3   **Maps: The Potential of Spatial Humanities** (Assignment #2 due)

- Pre-class reading: [Josh MacFadyen's work](#)
- Using Geographical Information systems
- Special guest: Jenny Marvin, GIS specialist

Week 4   **Big Data and Programming** (Assignment #3 due)

- Resource: [The Programming Historian](#)
- Students will choose an assignment

Week 5   **Multi-media Exhibition and Web Design** (Assignment #4 due)

- The Scottish Chapbooks Project @ the University of Guelph
- Special Guest: Melissa McAfee, Special Collections Librarian

Week 6   **TBA** (Assignment #5 due)

Week 7   *Reading week – no class*

Week 8   **Preliminary Project Presentations** (Project Plans due)

Week 9   **Preliminary Project Presentations (continued)**

Weeks 10 and 11 **Lab Days (activities to be determined based on project needs)**

Weeks 12 and 13 **Final Project Presentations**

mi-April   Final Report and Final Project implementation due

E-mail Communication

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Winterl 2014 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, March 7, 2014**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counselling Office: http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml

Course Evaluation

Please be sure to provide your evaluation of the course at http://courseeval.uoguelph.ca