

Tools, Techniques, and Culture of the Digital Humanities

Humanities 150, University of Victoria, Winter 2011

Instructor: Jentery Sayers, Assistant Professor, Department of English

Prompt: Final Project and Proposal

Course Outcomes

By the term's conclusion, students should learn how to:

- Collaborate with their peers through not only the use of new technologies but also an agreed-upon and democratic workflow,
- Purposefully read, analyze, and synthesize electronic texts and new media using the appropriate research tools and techniques,
- Concisely articulate issues (e.g., social, cultural, economic, technical, and aesthetic) common to digital humanities research and explain why they are relevant to today's audiences,
- Persuasively communicate the stakes of digital humanities research,
- Demonstrate awareness of various strategies used by digital humanities practitioners to interpret history and culture, and
- Collaboratively produce a proof of concept for a new digital humanities project, which is relevant to students, staff, and faculty at the University of Victoria.

Project Content and Design (Due Tuesday, November 29th) (15% of your grade, one submission per cluster)

Your Final Project will be a proof of concept (e.g., a visible and interactive model) for a line of digital humanities inquiry that, with more time, could be developed and include more content. That proof of concept should be collaboratively composed and presented through a website (e.g., an online portfolio, blog, or the like). It should also: (1) present your topic and content through at least three different modes (e.g., geographical map, timeline, text analysis, video, and audio), (2) provide an outline for possible future developments (e.g., what, if given more time, the project could do and how), (3) allow audiences to interpret your topic several ways, (4) detail who was involved in the project and how they contributed to it, (5) be licensed (e.g., Creative Commons), and (6) give audiences a means to easily navigate the content (e.g., search bar, main navigation, side navigation, and/or footer).

Project Description (Due Tuesday, November 29th) (10% of your grade, one submission per cluster)

Your Final Project should also include a collaboratively authored description, provided on its “about” page (or the like). The description should contain the following: (1) the purpose of the project, (2) the precise issue the project addresses (including why the issue matters), (3) the intended audience(s) for the project, (4) a precise explanation of the processes through which the project was developed (e.g., make visible the labor and workflow involved), and (5) the names of all contributors. The description should be well-written, revised several times, and aimed at academic audiences. It should be roughly 350 words in length (excluding contributor names).

Project Presentation (Due Tuesday, November 29th) (10% of your grade, one submission per cluster)

Your group should collaboratively present your Final Project to the class using a Pecha-Kucha approach. You should present twenty images (e.g., screenshots of your project) to the class, with each image displayed for twenty seconds. The presentation should be an audience-friendly, “listenable” version of your project description. That said, it should include all five elements listed above, plus whatever else you find necessary to communicate during your six-plus minutes.

Project Proposal (Due Tuesday, October 4th) (10% of your grade, one submission per student)

Prior to submitting your Final Project, you should publish (on the blog) a proposal for what (from your perspective as one person in your cluster) you think your cluster’s project should be. In it, be sure to include: (1) the topic of your cluster’s research, (2) your cluster’s mission, (3) why your topic matters (or why it is important), (4) references/links to blog entries by your cluster-mates, (5) references/links to material discussed during class meetings thus far, (6) the kinds of information / evidence you will gather, (7) an explanation of how you will gather that information and evidence, and (8) what kind of knowledge your project should ultimately help your audience(s) produce—that is, what will it help them learn? On the blog, please categorize your proposals under “proposal” (someone will need to create that category). Your proposal should be approximately 500 words long.

Please see me with questions! My office hours are MW, 3:30-4:30, or by appointment. I’m looking forward to seeing you final projects.