

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN
INSTITUT FÜR PHILOSOPHIE, LITERATUR-, WISSENSCHAFTS- UND TECHNIKGESCHICHTE
COURSE SYLLABUS, WINTERSEMESTER 2017/2018

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Course type	Hauptseminar
Course organiser	Dr Giuditta Parolini Technische Universität Berlin
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Course language	English
Sprechstunde	By appointment

The course is organised in nine lectures/workshops (3 hours each) scheduled in the period October-December.

Course presentation

“The digital humanities is whatever we make it to be.” George H. Williams, 2011

“DH is best experienced as both theory and practice.” Elli Mylonas, 2010

“... just one method for doing humanistic inquiry.” Brian Croxall, 2011

“A term of tactical convenience.” Matthew Kirschenbaum, 2011

“I’m sick of trying to define it.” Amanda French, 2011

“With extreme reluctance.” Lou Bernard, 2011

“I try not to.” Willard McCarty, 2011

Definitions of Humanities Computing/Digital Humanities posted in the online forum “Day of Digital Humanities”.

Quoted in J. Thompson Klein *Interdisciplining Digital Humanities*.

The seminar will provide an accessible introduction to digital humanities. By combining an overview of the history and current developments of the field with a few practical workshops, the seminar will help participants to develop both a critical understanding of what digital humanities are and to learn digital methods and tools relevant in the humanities.

The seminar will be organised in three-hour thematic workshops. The teaching language is English. Theoretical discussions will concern the nature and scope of digital humanities’ tools and methods and how digital publishing is changing the humanities. Hands-on workshops will teach seminar participants how to use digital citation tools (Zotero), organise and visualise research data (Viewshare), create geographical maps (QGIS), set up a blog or website (WordPress) and use networking tools (wikis, mailing lists, digital platforms).

Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own laptop/tablet/smartphone in class and gain a first-hand experience of the digital humanities tools discussed during the seminar.

Evaluation

Kleine Leistung (3 ECTS)

You are required to:

- 1) Attend regularly the course.
- 2) Before the class, do the assignments listed in the syllabus for each week.
- 3) Write an essay (about 2,000 words long) in English in which you explain what digital humanities are, how they are changing scholarship and why you think it is valuable to learn digital humanities methods and tools. References and bibliography in the essay must be created with Zotero. The suggested readings at the conclusion of the syllabus provide a starting point for writing the essay, but you can integrate them with other books/journal articles/online materials (in English or German) on digital humanities.

The essay must be sent to the course organiser by email before March 15th 2018.

Große Leistung (5 ECTS)

You are required to:

- 1) Attend regularly the course.
- 2) Before the class, do the assignments listed in the syllabus for each week.
- 3) Draft a project in English for setting up a website or a blog on digital humanities. The website must have at least 6 pages in addition to the Home page and the blog must have a minimum of twelve posts. The aim of the website/blog is to explain why the digital humanities are an interdisciplinary field of research and how disciplines such as history, philosophy, sociology etc. can benefit from the use of digital tools and methods. You can discuss [with references to the literature on digital humanities] general ideas or describe specific examples of digital humanities projects. The suggested readings at the conclusion of the syllabus provide a starting point for your draft project, but you can integrate them with other books/journal articles/online materials (in English or German) on digital humanities. The website/blog must be designed for an academic public. In addition to the text you write for the website/blog, you must also select an adequate number of images (free to use) [you can also select free videos if you want] and links to other relevant websites to add to your webpages/blog posts. You can also attach PDF files to the website pages/blog posts. As a template for your draft project you can use the work we will be doing in the classroom for setting up a website/blog with WordPress.

The project draft (texts, images*, attachments, list of links) must be sent to the course organiser by email before March 30th 2018.

* Images must be in low resolution, no more than 150kb each. Alternately, you can just provide the link to the high-resolution file.

Course programme and activities

Week 1

Course Overview

Week 2

Digital Humanities: Past, Present and Future(?)

Assignment:

Read these two contributions on digital humanities:

1. Willard McCarty (2003) [Humanities Computing](#). In *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*. New York: Marcel Dekker; pp. 1224-1235.
2. Susan Hockey (2004) [The History of Humanities Computing](#). In Schreibman, Susan, Siemens, Ray and Unsworth, John (eds.) (2004). *A Companion to Digital Humanities*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Week 3

Digital Citation Tools: Zotero

Assignment:

Watch this [video](#) about Zotero. Download Zotero (for Firefox or standalone) and register for a free account <https://www.zotero.org/download/>. Browse the [Zotero User Guide](#). Bring to the class an essay/report you have written and learn how to acquire its citations with Zotero.

Week 4

Data Management and Visualisation

Assignment:

1. Go to <http://viewshare.org> and request a free account (please remember that it takes at least two business days to activate the account).
2. Go to the website of the digital humanities project <http://www.sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com>. Watch the introductory video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41_DQQii628 and browse the website to answer these questions: a) What is the aim of this project?; b) Where do the data come from?; c) How are the network visualisations created?; d) Who is working on this project?; e) Who is funding the project?
3. Read pp. 37-47; 62-63; 66-71 in Burdick, Anne, Dricker, Johanna, Lunenfeld, Peter, Presener, Todd, and Schnapp, Jeffrey (2012) [Digital Humanities](#). Cambridge, Massachusetts and London: The MIT Press.

Week 5

Creating maps with GIS Software: QGIS

Assignment:

Download and install QGIS (Version 2.14), free GIS software available for both Windows and Mac <http://qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>. Browse the [QGIS User Guide](#) to understand what you can do with this software.

Week 6

Publishing in the Digital Age

Read these two contributions on digital publishing:

1. Howard Besser (2004) [The Past, Present, and Future of Digital Libraries](#). In Schreibman, Susan, Siemens, Ray and Unsworth, John (eds.) (2004). *A Companion to Digital Humanities*. Oxford: Blackwell.
2. Gardiner, Eileen and Musto, Ronald G. (2015) *The Digital Humanities: A Primer for Students and Scholars*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 9: Meta-Issues 2: Copyright and Other Rights, Digital Rights Management, Open Access.

Week 7

Setting up a Website with WordPress

Assignment:

1. Browse the website <https://whewellsghost.wordpress.com> and answer these questions: a) What is the aim of this website?; b) Who are the contributors to the website?; c) What kind of material is posted on the website?; d) How has the publication frequency changed in time?; e) As a user, what do you think of this website?
2. Browse the website <https://ahem2016.wordpress.com> and answer these questions: a) What is the aim of this website?; b) What kind of material is posted on the website?; c) As a user, what do you think of this website?
3. Browse <https://wordpress.com/com-vs-org/> to understand what is WordPress and what services it offers.

Week 8

Setting up a Blog with WordPress

1. Browse the blog <https://missinglinkpodcast.wordpress.com> and answer these questions: a) What is the aim of this blog?; b) Who is/are the contributors?; c) What kind of material is posted on this

- blog?; d) How has the publication frequency changed in time?; e) As a user, what do you think of this blog?
2. Browse the blog <https://etherwave.wordpress.com> and answer these questions: a) What is the aim of this blog?; b) Who is/are the contributors?; c) What kind of material is posted on this blog?; d) How has the publication frequency changed in time?; e) As a user, what do you think of this blog?
 3. Write a blog post in English explaining why you are interested in digital humanities. The text for the blog post must be no longer than 400 words. You should also select an image (free to use) for your blog post and suggest two-three relevant links that can be integrated in your blog post.

Week 9

Using Networking Tools

1. Create an account on Wikispaces, when you receive my invitation. Once you have become a member you will be able to access the course wiki <https://tudigitalhumanities.wikispaces.com/>.
2. Think about a topic related to digital humanities for a possible collaborative wiki-discussion during the class.
3. Browse the archives of these two mailing lists [SIGCIS Members Email List](#) and [Mersenne](#). a) What are the topics discussed?; b) How do you subscribe to these mailing lists?; c) Who are the subscribers?
4. Browse the website Academia.edu. You do not need to subscribe to look at the sections (Job board, About, Press etc.) listed in the menu at the bottom of the home page. What is the aim of this website? Who is developing it? Who are the subscribers?

Suggested readings on digital humanities

Books

- Gardiner, Eileen and Musto, Ronald G. (2015) *The Digital Humanities: A Primer for Students and Scholars*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Thompson Klein, Julie (2014) [*Interdisciplining Digital Humanities: Boundary Work in an Emerging Field*](#). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Burdick, Anne, Dricker, Johanna, Lunenfeld, Peter, Presener, Todd, and Schnapp, Jeffrey (2012) [*Digital Humanities*](#). Cambridge, Massachusetts and London: The MIT Press.
- Schreibman, Susan, Siemens, Ray and Unsworth, John (eds.) (2004). [*A Companion to Digital Humanities*](#). Oxford: Blackwell.

Journals

- [*Digital Humanities Quarterly*](#) (published by the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations)
- [*Digital Studies*](#) (published by Société canadienne des humanités numériques)
- [*Computers and the Humanities*](#) [now *Language Resources and Evaluation*] (published by the Association for Computers and the Humanities)
- [*Journal of Digital Humanities*](#) [on hiatus] (published by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media)
- [*Leonardo*](#) (published by the MIT Press for the International Society for the Arts, Sciences and Technology)

German literature on digital humanities

- Gugerli, David, Hagner, Michael, Hirschi, Caspar, Kilcher, Andreas B., Purtschert, Patricia, Sarasin, Philipp and Tanner, Jakob (Hrsg.) (2013) *Digital Humanities*. Zürich: Diaphanes.
- Wolfgang Schmale (Hrsg.) (2015) *Digital Humanities: Praktiken der Digitalisierung, der Dissemination und der Selbstreflexivität*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag.