

Intro to Texts and Technology

ENG 6800 – 0001
Dr. Anastasia Salter
Fall 2020

Office: Virtual: on Slack and via Zoom
Office Hours: Mon 1-3 PM + by appointment
Contact: anastasia@ucf.edu / Webcourses

Mondays 6-8:50pm
Via Zoom
3 Units

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the PhD in Texts and Technology. Emphasis on interdisciplinarity, understanding academic fields and their relationships to each other, developing an academic identity, and fundamentals of success for both graduate school and academia. Each week will include a combination of readings, exercises, discussions, and progress towards a draft journal article and professional academic web presence. PR: Graduate standing or C.I.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Explore the six tracks of Texts & Technology through analysis and discussion of core texts.
- Learn about the numerous interdisciplinary fields that inform and influence the field of texts and technology.
- Become familiar with some core concepts that will recur throughout the T&T program, and which form the theoretical basis and backbone of the program.
- Be introduced to some of the basic concerns, concepts, and methods in the emerging interdisciplinary scholarship of Texts and Technology.
- Engage in scholarly conversation about the course texts and concepts they take up, in the process improving interpretation, writing, design, and argumentation skills.
- Become more familiar with program policies and expectations as well as professional presentation and publication strategies.
- Understand the fundamentals of web platforms.
- Apply basic syntax and markup language to build structured web documents (e.g., HTML).

Required Texts

Bogost, Ian. *Persuasive Games: The Expressive Power of Video Games*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2007.

Bolter, Jay David. *Writing Space: Computers, Hypertext, and the Remediation of Print*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2001.

D'Ignazio, Catherine, and Lauren Klein. *Data Feminism*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2020.
Available for purchase in print or for free online: <https://data-feminism.mitpress.mit.edu/>

Gold, Matthew K., and Lauren Klein (eds.) *Debates in the Digital Humanities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016.
Available for purchase in print or for free online: <http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/debates/2>

Klein, Julie Thompson. *Interdisciplining Digital Humanities: Boundary Work in an Emerging Field*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2015.

Available for purchase in print or for free online:

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?cc=dh;c=dh;idno=12869322.0001.001;rgn=full%20text;view=toc;xc=1;g=dculture>

Manovich, Lev. *Software Takes Command*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury, 2013.

Available for purchase in print or for free online:

https://issuu.com/bloomsburypublishing/docs/9781623566722_web

Nakamura, Lisa. *Digitizing Race: Visual Cultures of the Internet*. Minneapolis, MI: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Vee, Annette. *Coding Literacy: How Computer Programming is Changing Writing*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignments

- | | | |
|------------------|--|---------------------|
| 10 points | Zotero Reading List
Set up Zotero and create a collection for your core T&T list. Add all the books we're reading this semester that are on the list as well as any others you have read or are particularly interested in. Submit a screenshot of the collection. | September 14 |
| 10 points | Abstract
Choose a special issue or a target journal from the provided list. Draft an abstract of the appropriate length and style (following journal guidelines). This abstract will form the starting point for your semester-long research project. | September 28 |
| 15 points | Literature Review
Select five relevant journal articles or book chapters in consultation with the professor: at least one should be from your target journal. Following the provided examples, prepare a literature review on your subject using the articles in combination with course readings. | October 12 |
| 20 points | Build a Web Presence
Using the provided templates, build a foundational professional website with an emphasis on your research and trajectory. The website should include relevant information from your CV and any digital projects ready for showcasing. | October 26 |
| 15 points | Journal Article Draft
Following the formatting guidelines and length requirements of your selected journal, prepare a draft of your journal article for peer review. This draft is graded on completion only, but will be the foundation of feedback for your final revisions. | November 16 |
| 10 points | Peer Review Feedback
Provide professional and appropriate feedback on the paper assigned to you by a fellow student. Focus on content, substance, and clarity of communication. | November 23 |
| 20 points | Final Revised Article | December 7 |

100 points Total

Grading Scale (%)

94-100 A	80-83 B-	67-69 D+
90-93 A-	77-79 C+	64-66 D
87-89 B+	74-76 C	60-63 D-
84-86 B	70-73 C-	0 - 59 F

Format and COVID-19

This course has been migrated to a Zoom – synchronous video format as part of the University of Central Florida’s response to COVID-19. Given both the international pandemic and local challenges, the following guidelines will be in place for class meetings and communication:

- Every week, a Zoom meeting will occur starting at the scheduled class time. Participation in the live meeting is recommended but not mandatory. Recordings will be made available as soon as possible following the session. When missing a Zoom call, students do not need to provide excuse or documentation: all the materials necessary to catch up will be available on Webcourses for asynchronous use.
- Given the intensity of the Zoom format, synchronous course meeting times will be reduced and may vary depending on weekly discussion topics, with follow-up discussion encouraged asynchronously via Slack. While participation on Slack is not required or graded, it is highly recommended.
- During Zoom calls, no student is required to display video to participate. Discussions will make use of a combination of text and voice chat, so a headset is recommended if available. If circumstances necessitate arriving late or leaving early, feel free to depart or arrive as needed.
- All demos will be provided on the weeks listed as asynchronous tutorials, using a mix of video and text as appropriate. Students are encouraged to use the provided Slack channel for follow-up questions, and to assist their peers with technical questions as well as research questions to build their own skills in these areas.
- Students will need access to a reliable internet connection and computer, with the capacity to install software, in order to participate fully in class assignments. If at any time this becomes a difficulty, please reach out to the instructor immediately.
- Given the nature of this semester, late work will always be accepted up to the date of the next assignment deadline with the exception of the journal article draft and peer review feedback, as late submission of these assignments would impede collective progress.
- In the event of an emergency or medical challenge, additional flexibility beyond these provisions is always available. Thus if an extension is required beyond these guidelines, or a lengthy absence from asynchronous and synchronous conversation is anticipated, students should reach out to the instructor as soon as feasible to form a plan. As assignments built on one another, assignments should be completed and submitted in the listed sequence.

General Policies

- During the first week, there is a required **Academic Activity Verification**, due August 28 by 11:59pm.
 - Faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. To document that you began this course, please complete the Academic Activity Verification by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. This is required even for students who do not receive financial aid.
- **Grades will be reported via Webcourses.** All work must be submitted through Webcourses.
- All work that you submit for this class must be your own, and it must be written exclusively for this course. Also, any sources consulted for your writing must be properly documented. "Rewriting," in which a student consults a source, changes a few words, and presents the ideas as his/her own, is plagiarism. **Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment** and may also lead to an "F" for the entire course. Plagiarism and cheating subjects a student to referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>).
- The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable **accommodations for persons with disabilities**. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons, Bldg. F7, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, sas@ucf.edu, before requesting accommodations.

Weekly Schedule

Week	Date	Reading	Assignment
1	August 24 Syllabus	<p>Read: Sweeney, Miriam E. 2012. "How to Read for Grad School." http://miriamsweeney.net/2012/06/20/readforgradschool/. The T&T Student Handbook</p> <p>Demo: Getting started with Zotero</p>	Academic Activity Verification
2	August 31 st Intro to DH	<p>Make: Review materials on Zotero</p> <p>Read: Bolter: Preface, Chapter 1 – 6 Debates in DH: Part 1</p> <p>Demo: Selecting a Journal</p>	
	September 7	No Class – Labor Day	

3	September 14 Hypertext	<p>Make: Whitson, Roger. 2012. "The Ins and Outs of a Professional Academic Website." https://theprofessorisin.com/2012/02/07/the-ins-and-outs-of-a-professional-academic-website-guest-post-2/. Download Typora: https://www.typora.io/ Read: https://sourcethemes.com/academic/docs/writing-markdown-latex/</p> <p>Read: Bolter: finish book Klein: Emerging / Interdisciplining</p> <p>Demo: Markdown and Markup</p>	Zotero Reading List
4	September 21 Literature Reviews	<p>Make: Use Netlify to deploy your base site: https://app.netlify.com/start/deploy?repository=https://github.com/sourcethemes/academic-kickstart</p> <p>Read: Bogost: Preface, Chapter 1-5 Klein: Defining Process of Literature Review: https://guides.lib.fsu.edu/litreview_arthurm</p> <p>Demo: Github Pages</p>	
5	September 28 Methods and Making	<p>Read: Bogost: Finish book Debates in DH: Part II Jensen, Joli. "Lessons on the Craft of Scholarly Reading." ChronicleVitaе, 2018. https://chroniclevitaе.com/news/2086-lessons-on-the-craft-of-scholarly-reading.</p> <p>Demo: Hypertext</p>	Abstract
6	October 5 Arguments	<p>Make: Working with Hugo: https://themes.gohugo.io/academic/</p> <p>Read:</p>	

		<p>Nakamura: Introduction, Chapter 1-3 Debates in DH: Part III Data Feminism, Intro</p> <p>Demo: Hugo</p>	
7	<p>October 12 Visual Culture</p>	<p>Make: Customization and Style: https://sourcethemes.com/academic/docs/customization/#custom-theme</p> <p>Read: Nakamura: Finish book Debates in DH: Part V Data Feminism, Chapter 1</p> <p>Demo: Stylesheets and Design</p>	Literature Review
8	<p>October 19 Software</p>	<p>Read: Manovich: Part 1 and 2 Debates in DH: Part IV Data Feminism, Chapter 2</p> <p>Demo: Finishing your Site</p>	
9	<p>October 26 Cultural Software</p>	<p>Read: Manovich: Finish book Debates in DH: Part VI Data Feminism, Chapter 3</p>	Web Presence
10	<p>November 2 Digital Humanities</p>	<p>Read: Klein: Finish book On Writing a Journal Article: https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/07/18/how-write-publishable-journal-article-opinion Data Feminism, Chapter 4</p> <p>Demo: Dissecting a Journal Article</p>	
11	<p>November 9 Coding Literacy</p>	<p>Read: Vee: Introduction and Chapter 1-2 Data Feminism, Chapter 5 + 6</p> <p>Demo: How to do Peer Review</p>	
12	<p>November 16</p>	<p>Read: Partner's Draft Article Data Feminism, 7 + Conclusion</p>	Journal Article Draft

		Demo: Responding to Peer Review	
13	November 23	Read: Vee: Finish book	Peer Review Feedback
	November 30	No Zoom – Revise Articles	
	December 7	No Zoom – Final Article Due	Final Revised Article