A Vertical Seminar in Digital Humanities

Seminar sessions: Mondays from 3:00 to 5:30, Umrath 201
Workshop sessions: Fridays from 1:00 to 2:30, Olin Library, The Arc

Participants

- Anupam Basu
- Kurt Beals
- Douglas Knox
- Heidi Kolk
- John Ladd
- Joe Loewenstein
- Lisa Lillie
- Melanie Micir
- Lauren Robertson
- Brooke Shafar
- Lynne Tatlock
- Amy Thompson
- Rafia Zafar

Schedule of Topics

Jan
- 13. Introduction
- 27. Remediation I: Media and Intellectual Novelty

Feb
- 3. Remediation II: Editing and Markup
- 10. Stylometrics, Cliometrics, and the Prehistory of DH
- 17. Aggregated Histories of Reading
- 24. Voodoo I: Attribution

March
- 3. Voodoo II: Docuscope and Genre
- 17. Data and Corpora
- 24. Corpus Linguistics and Search
- 31. Voodoo III: Topic Modeling

April
- 7. Visualization I: Prosopography
- 14. Visualization II: GIS
- 28. DH, Critique, and Institutional Politics

Syllabus

N.B. This syllabus is a work in progress. Please read it through as soon as possible and if any aspect of it seems to need adjusting, let me know. Sooner is better than later, but later is good, too. Large adjustments will be harder to make than swapping a reading.
I’ve listed several categories of activity in this syllabus. Normally, we’ll prepare for the seminar by doing some reading and by exploring some websites or spending time getting a feel for some software. Please plan on devoting lots of time to the “Explore” part of each assignment. (It’s not enough simply to go to a site or to download a piece of software. . . .) Just as preparation will often be bimodal, so will the seminar be: we’ll spend most of our time talking about the reading and discussing the tools and websites, but we’ll frequently spend time trying things out during the seminar session.

I’ve also asked the staff of the HDW to run workshops on Fridays, coordinated with the seminar work. Most of these workshops are optional, although they’re very strongly recommended. But I’d ask that, at the very beginning of semester (or even before), you make an appointment to meet with Doug Knox to discuss the skills or tools you’d like to master at the outset. (I’d like to sit in on these meetings if I can, but my presence isn’t crucial.) In many cases, your seminar proposals imply or explicitly indicate what those skills or tools are: one of you wants to know how to make a web site and mount a blog, others have admitted to awkwardness in using Excel (and you’ll need to get better at it so that the exercises on literary attribution go smoothly), someone else wants a better feel for sentiment analysis, someone else wants to get comfortable with Zotero, I’m interested in mastering elementary statistics, and so forth. We’re all in different places, of course, but we want to figure out your obvious technical needs quite early on, since we’ll be arranging for workshops and tutorials to get you up and running. Again, we’re not trying to get everyone to the same place, but we strongly believe that learning new technical skills is a crucial part of critical engagement with DH, so please be aggressive at the beginning of term about identifying one or two skills or tools that you want to master. (Doug and Anupam get a pass on this since they already know everything about everything.)

The Mellon Foundation and the university expect us each to “finish something consequential” as part of our seminar work – write a dissertation chapter, finish an article, build a website, compile a database, make a big grant application. It’s one of my duties to kibbitz as you design that project, to help you secure the technical support you need, to attend to your progress, and to work out ways to integrate reports, the reading and discussion of drafts, or project demonstrations into the flow of the seminar. I’ve made a guess at where your work will fit and, in one or two instances, I’ve guessed at how. I’ll ask the grad students to submit a new chapter, a draft article, or a term paper or comparable digital project on May 1; we may wish to arrange an informal symposium for that work.

Most of the assigned reading is available on line or will be placed on Blackboard. (For the purpose of discussion, it’s best if we work from fixed-paginated text, so when the on-line source is unpaginated, I’ll make it available as a PDF on Blackboard.) You’ll need to purchase Jockers’ Macroanalysis and Ramsay’s Reading Machines. I would also encourage you to purchase Moretti’s Graphs, Maps, and Trees, Murray’s, Hamlet on the Holodeck, and Cohen and Rosenzweig’s Digital History, although I’ll post PDFs of the selections from these texts. Grad students should submit their receipts, for the cost of
their books will be reimbursed.

**Jan. 13**  **Introduction**

*Explore:* Bamboo Dirt

*Readings*:

1. Jockers, *Macroanalysis* (chapters 1 and 2 carefully; skim the remainder)
5. Jockers, “Advice for DH Newbies”

*Also recommended*:

7. Cathy Davidson. “Humanities 2.0.” *Debates in Digital Humanities*.
8. One Culture: Computationally Intensive Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, a Report on the Experiences of First Respondents to the Digging Into Data Challenge
11. Evgeny Morozov, *To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism*

*In seminar:* Google N-grams v. Davies’ Google N-Grams

*Separately scheduled:* Tech consultations and workshops

**Jan. 27**  **Remediation I: Media and intellectual novelty**  **Beals**
Explore: NINES and TAPoR

Readings:


4. Jerome McGann, Radiant Textuality, Pt. II


Also recommended

6. Lev Manovich. The Language of New Media. Introduction, Part I (What is New Media?)


Workshops: “Everything you ever wanted to know about [Wordpress, Excel, Blackboard, Zotero, whatever seminar participants have during the tech consultations], Part I”

Feb. 3 Remediation II: Editing and Markup Robertson, Knox

Explore: Van Gogh Letters, Early Modern Letters Online (and please glance at the earlier version), The Spenser Archive (Logon: folger; folger), and Textual Encoding Initiative: Electronic Textual Editing. (Also of interest: Bess of Hardwick's Letters)
Readings:


4. Renear, Mylonas, and Durand, "Refining our Notion of What Text Really Is: The Problem of Overlapping Hierarchies"


Also recommended:

6. McGann and Buzzetti, "Electronic Textual Editing: Critical Editing in a Digital Horizon"


In seminar: Encoding exercise with the Merrill papers.

Workshop: either Juxta or “Everything you ever . . .” Part II

Feb. 10   Stylometrics, Cliometrics, and the Early History of DH  Knox, Basu

Explore: TAPoR (again; it’s worth going back to look at more tools)

Readings:

1. Burrows, Computation into Criticism (selection)

2. Will G. Thomas, “Computing and the Historical Imagination,” Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities


4. Clement, “Text Analysis, Data Mining, and Visualizations in Literary Scholarship,” in Literary Studies in the Digital Age

5. St. Clair, The Reading Nation (selection; to set up next week)
Also recommended


7. William Sewell, Chapter 2 of *Logics of History*


*Workshop: Voyant* and other selected tools from TAPoR

Feb. 17 **Aggregated Histories of Reading**
**Tatlock**

*Explore: What Middletown Read* and HDW tools for further investigating coordination between reading in Muncie, including visualizations linking readership and title and readership and author

*Readings:*

1. Jockers and Flanders, “A Matter of Scale”

2. Moretti, “Graphs” and “Maps,” from *Graphs, Maps, and Trees*

3. Stephen Ramsay, *Reading Machines*

*In seminar:* Presentation on transnational *Jane Eyre*; exercise in using regular expressions to manipulate the Muncie data

*Workshop:* working with Excel or Python

Feb. 24 **Voodoo I: Attribution**
**Thompson, Basu**


5. Allison, et. al. “Style at the Scale of the Sentence,” Stanford Literary Lab, Pamphlet V

In seminar: Attribution exercise

Workshop: Building and cleaning up a corpus, or more Python

March 3  

**Voodoo II: Docuscope and Genre**  
*Basu*

Explore: Docuscope


4. “How to Read a Dendrogram”

Also recommended:


In seminar: Working with Ubiq+Ity

Workshop: The vocabulary of Statistics

March 17 

**Data and Corpora**  
*Shafar*

Explore: Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives at Ohio State
Readings:

1. Deegan & Tanner, “Conversion of Primary Sources,” in *A Companion to Digital Humanities*

2. H. Lewis Ulman, "Reading the DALN Database: Narrative, Metadata, and Interpretation"

3. Nancy Ide, “Preparation and Analysis of Linguistic Corpora,” *A Companion to Digital Humanities*

In seminar: What’s wrong with your corpus, the case of EEBO

Workshop: More corpus cleanup work (or more Python or Stats)

**March 24**  
**Corpus Linguistics and Search:**  
*Basu, Loewenstein*  
the problem of lemmatization

Explore: Wordhoard, COHA (The Corpus of Historical American English) and Tesserae. (Also recommended: AntConc ([there are tutorial resources in text and video form] and Getty image markup and search)

1. Mark Davies, “A corpus-based study of lexical developments in Early and Late Modern English" *The Cambridge Handbook of English Historical Linguistics* (if available)


3. Gregory Crane, “Rediscovering Philology”

Also recommended:


In seminar: more work with Wordhoard

Workshop: more search techniques

**March 31**  
**Voodoo III: Topic Modeling**  
*visit from Matt Erlin*


**In seminar:** Mallet

**Workshop:** Working with WMatrix and Mallet

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**April 7**

**Visualization I: Prosopography**

*Zafar*  
*visit from* Peter Kastor

*Explore:* Early Modern Letters Online (again), Six Degrees of Francis Bacon, Kindred Britain. (Also recommended: the carcass of Making Publics, worth examining both for its intellectual achievements and for its institutional history)


3. Tim Hitchcock, "Big Data for Dead People: Digital Readings and the Conundrums of Positivism"


*Also recommended:*


8. Sinclair, Ruecker, and Radzikowska, “Information Visualization for Humanities Scholars,” in *Literary Studies in the Digital Age*

*In seminar:* best practices in visualization

*Workshop:* demo of JMP and D3

**April 14**  
**Visualization II: GIS**  
**Lillie; Ladd**

*Explore:* The Map of Early Modern London (MoEML), Hypermedia Berlin, David Rumsey Map Collection (much more than a collection of maps). (Also recommended: Mapping Gothic France)

*Readings:*


4. Anne Knowles et al., “A Cutting Edge Second Look at the Battle of Gettysburg,” (be sure to click a red marker and try the “Show Viewshed” or “Show Panorama” links)


*Also recommended:*


*Workshop:* more work with visualization software (D3 and JMP)

**Apr. 21**  
**Remix, Blog, Simulation, App: Citizen Scholarship**  
**Kolk**  
*visit from* Ellen Mackay
Explore: ShaLT (Shakespeare’s London Theatres), The Valley of the Shadow, Old Weather, The September 11 Digital Archive. (Also recommended: Omeka, which was born of the September 11 Digital Archive)

Readings:


5. The Curse of Cow Clicker: on Ian Bogost’s Cow Clicker, game as engaged critique

Also recommended:

6. Some background on Bogost

7. The London Charter for the Computer-Based Visualisation of Cultural Heritage

8. Katherine Rowe, “Shakespeare and Media History,” The New Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare (the best stuff is in the first few pages)


Workshop: working with Scalar

Apr. 28      DH, Critique, and Institutional Politics      Micir

Explore: Critical Commons, Eigenfactor.org

Readings:


5. Lisa Nakamura, ”Introduction to *Digitizing Race: Visual Cultures of the Internet*


*Also recommended:*


*Eventually: Party*