

Digital Humanities



Spring 2012

LIS 697-04

Wednesday

3:30-5:50 PM

Professor Chris Alen Sula

The traditional branches of the humanities—history, literature, and philosophy—offer us a rich and complex view of various texts as seen through historical, critical, and theoretical perspectives. The growing movement of Digital Humanities offers exciting possibilities for studying digital and digitized objects, collaborating in new ways, and bringing new methodologies to bear on classic questions in the humanities. In this course, we'll examine the history, theory, and practice of Digital Humanities, paying special attention to the ways in which DH is transforming research, disciplines, and even the academy itself.

We'll begin by asking how Digital Humanities is different from non-digital humanities and how its methods and tools are related to other disciplines, including computer science and the social sciences. We'll examine the versatile range of tools and skills that are involved in planning, funding, managing, and evaluating projects, and look at several projects that have helped to define the movement. We'll also examine the ways in which DH is changing the way scholars engage in research and with each other, as well as its impact on higher education. Along the way, we will consider the role of libraries and information professionals in this growing movement.

There is no prerequisite for this course, though an undergraduate background in humanities will be an asset. Course assignments will include short weekly responses, creation of a small DH project (perhaps with a group), and a final research paper that helps to define future possibilities for the movement. This course is especially recommended for students interested in academic libraries, digital scholarship, historical and cultural preservation, or those with a longstanding interest in the humanities.