

Writing in DH Class 1 Questions:

How critical do you think the mystery of the human mind is to DH?

As computers and algorithms become more sophisticated, I think we will eventually try to answer mysteries about the human mind. For now, I think we are even struggling to teach a computer to be an adequate reader, not even a good one.

What is the interplay between DH and human computer interaction?

DH is not primarily concerned with the interaction between a human and a computer, like cybernetics. There are fields called posthumanism and cybernetic studies that look into this interaction. Also, a subfield of media studies, called interface studies looks at the impact of interface on humans.

How hard do I grade?

I do my best to be about average with how other professors at UNC-CH grade your writing. We will develop a Rubric together for each major unit project, so no grade is a surprise. For your unit projects, you can rewrite them for a higher grade by the end of the semester in your final portfolio.

Do I annotate our papers with corrections while grading?

I will give you substantial comments and annotations on your unit projects. The feeders are graded for completion, but I will still give you some annotations and comments on those as well.

How is writing graded? Is there a specific number of point deducted for each typo for example?

As a class, we develop the rubric for each unit project collaboratively. Usually there is a threshold for typos (like to have less than 3 for an A). Here is an example from the Spring: https://docs.google.com/document/d/15v_v3mDogQJRQKNvIT8BhsKxuNMBTchIVpxnFpJ6Kc0/edit

Is the class focused on the computational analysis of literature or just how people view it?

This class is mainly focused on writing, but we will be writing on both of these aspects. In the first unit, we will be focused on analyzing how people view computational literary studies. While in the second unit, we will be doing our own computational analysis of literature (no coding required).

How long will the feeders/unit papers be?

Like I said in class, the feeders are meant to break the unit project into smaller chunks, which is usually 500-700 words. The unit projects are usually somewhere between 1200-1500 words.

What kind of articles are we going to write?

We will touch on some of the major genres in DH: journal articles, annotated bibliographies, literature reviews, blog posts, and academic posters.

What will we be citing in?

Since most of the DH community publishes in MLA, I am going to teach and review that citation style. If there is a style that you prefer to use, you are welcome to use that—just let me know if you want to do that.

What is my favorite color?

Blue

How much prior knowledge about computer science do I need to do well in this class?

You do not need any experience in CS to do well in this class.

How will machine learning and AI be used in the class?

In Unit 2, we will be using some fairly basic algorithms like topic models, word frequencies, and named entity recognizers. They are not advanced as some of the other AI and machine learning algorithms, but they do give you some exposure to unsupervised learning.

What do I do if I cannot think of writing ideas?

Great news! Each Unit will give you prompts to write about and I will teach you how to use the rhetorical chart in other writing assignments to help you get writing quickly.

How heavy is the writing workload?

Most weeks you will be writing an average of 500 words. You will start to learn that most of the time we spend is on revising and editing.

How well do I have to understand coding for this class?

Nope! We will not be doing any coding.

Will I be at a disadvantage without a CS background?

Not at all! Sometimes a different perspective is more helpful on these topics.

Are there any opportunities to rewrite and resubmit assignments for a new grade?

For the major unit projects, you can rewrite them for a higher grade by the end of the semester in your final portfolio.

How long is the average paper for this class?

The average feeder is between 500-700 words and most unit projects are between 1200-1500 words.