



ENGL-GA.2971-1 - Spring, 2016, NYU Practicum in Digital Humanities *Textual Artifacts and their Digital Representations: Creating an Online Archive*

Prof. Deena Engel, Department of Computer Science
Prof. Marion Thain, Liberal Studies and English

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Professor Deena Engel
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ENGL-GA.2971

Class time: Monday 6:00- 8:00pm in 244 Greene Street, Room 105

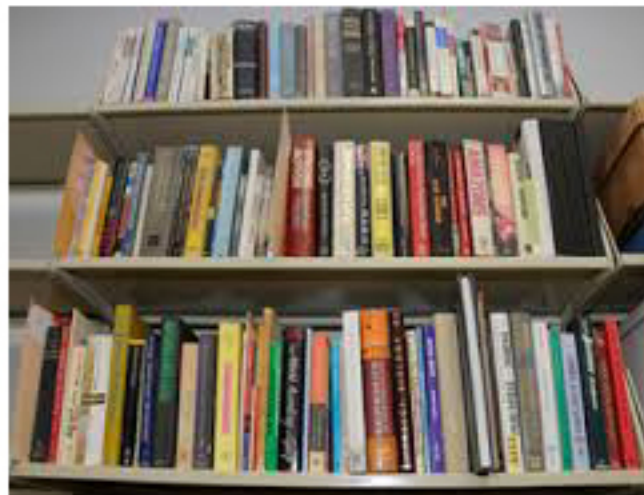
Lab Session: Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 At Waverly (24 Waverly Place), room 668

Prof. Thain office hours: Mondays 5:00 - 6:00 PM; Wednesdays 11:00AM - noon

Prof. Engel office hours: Mondays 11:00AM - 12:30PM; Tuesdays 11:00AM and Tuesdays 11:00AM - 12:30PM; and by appointment

The interface of technology and the humanities represents a key to the future, yet many students feel they lack the skills to access this potential. This course offers an introduction to web development and digital publication especially created for students in the Humanities, with a view to equipping you with knowledge foundational for reflective engagement with the new media of literary creation and dissemination. Students will survey the principles of current technologies and apply them through practice as they learn the skills and techniques for formatting and publishing archival materials in a web-based environment. The course builds towards the creation of a digital edition, giving you the opportunity to work with primary source materials available through NYU's rich archival collections (these include a wide variety of printed texts and manuscripts from which to select according to your interests).

The course will consist of a traditional classroom lecture and discussion format as well as computer lab sessions to promote and assist students as they work on each of their three projects in this course. Each student will have an account on a production webserver to post their work and learn to install and configure a Wordpress site specifically tailored to his or her primary source materials. Topics and assigned projects will begin with an introduction to mark-up languages and building a site of related web pages followed by a project centered on encoding and annotating digital texts for scholarly purposes. The final project involves photographing or scanning, transcribing, and encoding digital texts to build an on-line archive, which has the potential to be published and housed on a server as a lasting contribution to the world of online open-access scholarship.



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Course Structure

This course will consist of a weekly lecture and discussion format to cover concepts and to work through technical examples together in class. In addition, Prof Engel will hold a weekly two-hour session in the ITS Multi-Media lab to be available to students individually as they work on their projects and Prof Thain will hold a weekly office hour in her office to support students in their literary research. Students are encouraged to ask questions specific to their level of expertise with respect to technology and to work on projects in their fields of interest in literature.

Course Materials

Required Textbook:



HTML and CSS: Design and Build Websites
Jon Duckett
ISBN: 978-1-118-00818-8

<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118008189.html>

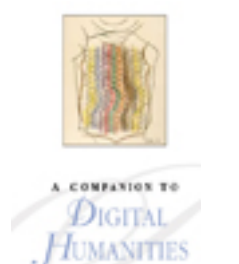
Optional Textbook:



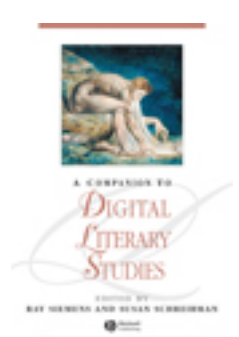
WordPress: The Missing Manual
The Complete Guide to Building Blogs and Corporate Websites
By Matthew MacDonald
Publisher: O'Reilly Media
Released: October 2012

Print ISBN: 978-1-4493-0984-8 | ISBN 10: 1-4493-0984-4
Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4493-1392-0 | ISBN 10: 1-4493-1392-2
<http://shop.oreilly.com/product/0636920021391.do>

On-Line Textbooks:



[A Companion to Digital Humanities](#)
Ed. Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens, John Unsworth.
Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.
<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion/>



[A Companion to Digital Literary Studies](#)
Ed. Susan Schreibman and Ray Siemens
Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.
<http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion/DLS/>

Paperback Edition:
Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell; 1 edition (June 4, 2016)
ISBN-10: 1118492277; ISBN-13: 978-1118492277

Software

All of the software will be available in the ITS multi-media lab at no charge. Students who wish to work on their own machines might consider either 30-day trial versions of proprietary software (such as the Adobe products or Oxygen) or purchasing such software through the NYU Computer store or other venue to benefit from academic pricing. In addition, every student will have an account on an NYU web server for posting all assignments and projects at no charge.

Archival Materials

Students will work with archival materials from New York University's [Fales Library and Special Collections](#) and other resources available through New York University's libraries. It will be the responsibility of students who wish to pursue further research on their primary source materials to discuss issues of copyright with our archivists and library staff.

Topics - Course Schedule to be posted

The course is divided into three broad sections; each one building on the previous topic.

- Mark-up languages and the fundamentals of web development
- Building online digital literary archives using a Content Management System (CMS) and related skills (exposure to JavaScript, PHP, MySQL)
- Text Encoding and the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI, XML)

Course Requirements and Assignments

There will be numerous readings as well as three hands-on student projects required during the semester. All projects will be posted to the student's website. Students will present their final project to the class at the end of the semester in lieu of a final exam.