

Interpretive Critique

Your first interpretive critique asks you to write a sustained, thesis-based critical interpretation of some significant current digital humanities project, topic of interest, or issue occasioned by the introduction or first unit of our course. The object or application of your interpretive critique should be a digital object—a site, a technology, hardware, software, etc.—or you should use digital objects in order to advance your interpretation. Whatever software you use to make your interpretive critique, it should be a fully electronic document, using mixed media to conduct an interpretation, an evaluation, and an analysis of some significant work of digital humanities scholarship. **Your Interpretive Critique is due October 10 at 11:59 am.**

Your first step is to select an appropriate object to critique. Choose an area that you enjoy, and begin to surf. Google is your friend. Your selection must be academic, scholarly in nature, and currently maintained and developed—it's quite difficult to work transhistorically in the digital realm. I urge you to bounce ideas off me. I can point you to some recently completed and currently developed projects in the digital humanities.

In conducting your interpretive critique, you should consider the work of the semester: What is (are) the digital humanities, and how does this area of study operate? How does reading and writing function differently in electronic environments? Your interpretive critique should strive to advance a claim of critical insight and significance, managing to suggest a broad interpretive dimension while staying grounded to a clear specific instance.

In format, your critique should be between 500 and 800 words, using mixed media to advance its perspective. The writing should be professional, clear, academic in tone and voice, and authoritative and specialized in its articulation.

I invite you to meet with me to choose ideas and approaches, select a project, develop a thesis, or refine a draft. I look forward to helping you develop and shape your insights, challenge and refine your methods, or just marvel at the wisdom of your work. Use tungle.me/randallcream to select a meeting time.

Submissions must be digital, on D2L's Dropbox, as well as publicly uploaded to the discussion forum. Late work will receive an F at best.

You will be graded on three main standards. First of all, you should present an argument that attempts to prove its main point. Secondly, that main point must consist of an idea that generates insightful perspective onto at least one of the texts we've read. Thirdly, the argument must be written in such a way that it is clear, well-ordered, and well-constructed. Your essay will be judged along three main standards: Strength of Argument, Insightfulness and Sophistication of Main Idea, and Skill of Construction. For more information on standards and guidelines, see the handouts on Argument, Thesis, and Introduction.