

Exam I

This essay exam asks you to assume a position of expertise in relationship to the material of the class and the semester. In direct response to one of the two questions below, write a thoughtful, well-reasoned, thesis-based essay that brings together your understanding of the material of the semester and your own digital experience. The best essays will use the reading materials, discussions, and writing assignments of the semester to frame an interpretive perspective on the role of the computer as a tool and medium for engaging with, understanding, and analysing humanities materials.

1. Argue for a fundamental similarity and compatibility between the *Digital Humanities* and the humanities in general, using the theories and materials of the class. In order to do so, you will want to draw comparisons between presenting, interacting with, and understanding objects in a digital environment and doing similar things in a material environment. A successful response will involve navigating the theories of the semester alongside specific, useful examples of digital projects and material objects. The best essays will attend to significant, *apparent* differences that occur within digital environments and use the theories and methodologies of the course to draw connections with our engagements with analogue or material humanities.

2. Argue for a fundamental difference and incompatibility between the *Digital Humanities* and the humanities in general, using the theories and materials of the class. In order to do so, you will want to draw comparisons between presenting, interacting with, and understanding objects in a digital environment and doing similar things in a material environment. A successful response will involve navigating the theories of the semester alongside specific, useful examples of digital projects and material objects. The best essays will attend to significant, meaningful differences that occur within electronic environments that alter and shape our interaction with humanistic culture.

You must submit an essay of approximately 4 to 6 pages, measured as a composition between 1000 and 1500 words. Essays that do not meet the wordcount will receive an F. The essay that you submit should adhere to the standards of college-level essay writing. Your essay should reflect your best work of the first half of the semester. As such, you should take care that you proofread it carefully. You should also take care that it is polished and refined, representing a serious attempt to complete the assignment. Any essay that represents shoddy workmanship or a lack of preparation will fail on its face.

You will be graded on three main standards. First of all, you should present an argument that attempts to prove its main point via a thesis and significant evidentiary material. Secondly, that main point must consist of ideas that generate insightful perspectives onto the texts, materials, projects, and discussions of the semester. Thirdly, the argument must be written in such a way that it is clear, well-ordered, and smoothly constructed. With these in mind, your essay will be judged along three main standards: Strength of Argument, Insightfulness and Sophistication of Main Idea, and Skill of Construction.

I will be available for brief consultations the week of 24-28 October.

Late exams will receive an F at best. Your exam must be submitted on D2L by 11 am on October 31.