

CLS350, Fall 2011  
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Introduction to Digital Humanities  
Main Hall 312  
MWF 10-11 & 2-3  
www.thinkingtogether.org/350

## **Exam II**

This essay exam asks you to assume a position of expertise in relationship to the material of the class in the second half of the semester. It has two parts, corresponding to the two units of the second half of the semester. Choose one topic from Part I and one topic from Part II. For each part, write an essay of between 800 and 1200 words, or 3 to 4 pages. Your essay should respond to the prompt with 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 analyzing humanities materials.

### **Part I: Reading and Writing in Electronic Spaces**

1. How do reading and writing in electronic spaces challenge, revise, or extend traditional assumptions about the humanities?
2. One critical component of reading and writing is the material and tactile sensations occasioned by reading or writing. Argue that there remains a space for the tactile in electronic writing and reading. How does the electronic embrace the tactile?
3. Argue that the electronic mechanisms for reading and writing miss out on significant components of reading and writing as human culture.

### **Part III: Games**

1. Argue that games are significant elements of human culture and are therefore appropriate targets for humanistic inquiry by analyzing the components of games.
2. One important feature of games seems to be their ability to create an alternate reality, a magic space. Analyze this feature of games and link it to notions of play, of fun, and of agonism.
3. Is cheating an important feature of games, or does it negate the space of play?

Your essays should reflect your best work of the second half of the semester. Any essay that represents shoddy workmanship or a lack of preparation will fail on its face.

You will be graded on three main standards: mastery of the material, use of examples, and skill of construction.

Late exams will receive a 0 at best. Your exam must be submitted on D2L by 12:00 noon on December 16.