

# DigHT 215, Fall 2020

Write a short letter to future students in this class (or other classes I teach), letting them know what you think is most important about the instructor, the class, the assignments, and/or the reading.

---

This class seems absolutely bonkers at first. You read the most random articles and do the most random assignments, but in the end I felt like I understand a bit more how technology can aid our exploration in the humanities. From my experience, by the way Professor Croxall has his grades set up in Learning Suite, it may look like you have a low grade in the first half of the semester, but as you write your blog posts and submit a few of the major assignments, your grade will rise quickly. WRITE BLOG POSTS EARLY. I say this mostly because it is easier to choose to write about what of the readings interest you early on in the semester than to write a blog post every week whether you find the articles interesting or not. You will probably come across readings that do not seem interesting in the slightest, but I would suggest to at least become familiar with them. When Professor Croxall presents these articles from the perspective who is interested and invested in these extremely foreign, artsy-fartsy topics, they suddenly become more intriguing if you are engaged in the discussions. I am in the DIGHT minor so I could learn coding and design principles. I in no way anticipated a class like this, but I ended up enjoying it.

Well, this is one interesting class, that's for sure. It wasn't anything like what I expected it to be, and to be honest, I'm not really certain what I was expecting. Plan on doing a lot more reading than you think you will--it always took me a lot of time. You will have some assignments, like blogging, that are drawn out. Stay on top of it and do it well. The projects are pretty fun for the most part, even if you don't understand exactly why you are doing it. Enjoy it and for once be happy that they are all group projects. Professor Croxall is very willing to help out with any questions and he doesn't try to make anything too hard or trip you up. All in all, just roll with it. If it seems like you are doing a lot of busy work with the readings (and it will sometimes), just power through and wait until your homework is to watch a movie. Now, we will just have to hope that the final goes as smoothly as the midterms did...

Success in this course (much like in other courses) depends heavily on one's commitment to the readings and participation. If the reading aren't done, then one will be unable to participate during class, and also unable to complete required assignments (such as blogging). This should seem as if it should go without saying, however it is crucial in this course, whereas in many others one can pass without doing much of the readings and simply skimming where required for important information.

This class is really fun! I was confused what the digital humanities was, but this course explains it perfectly. Professor Croxall does a good job of combining the digital with the humanities. So you can expect an English literature type class to be mixed with a web design or text analysis class. Be prepared to do lots of reading and critical thinking about the assigned readings. I would suggest taking notes about the readings so that you have thoughts to add to class discussions. There usually is not a right answer that professor is looking for but it is important to add to the conversation insights you gained from the readings. The projects are all meant to teach you valuable things about digital humanities, so don't roll your eyes at them. I never felt like they were busy work because they taught me skills that I can use in my future classes. You will get out of this class what you put in!

I thought this class was really interesting. Going into the class, I had little to no idea of what the digital humanities really is. I think Dr. Croxall did a great job giving students a grasp of a somewhat loosely defined field. The class in many ways reminded me of a high school English class. Most class periods will be spent in a class discussion about a prior reading. However, projects will generally focus on using technology to look at writing, film, or other art forms through a digital lens. It's cool that Dr. Croxall teaches using materials from his colleagues. This makes the field of digital humanities seem much more accessible. It also makes everything feel kind of new/innovative. Dr. Croxall grades very reasonably. Just participate in class and do the assignments and you should be fine.

You can do it! This course is fun, thought-provoking and worth it. If you want to stretch your thinking and explore different ways to explore the humanities, then you are in the right place. Professor Croxall will act intimidating and like he is a harsh grader, but if you are doing the readings and connecting them to what you know and then extrapolating those connected ideas, you'll do just fine.

Hi, This class starts out really confusing and esoteric, but if you don't understand digital humanities, don't worry; you will by the end of it. At least, that was my experience. You basically have two routes to do well in this class: be unusually smart, or do some extra work and earn extra credit. I think that's really fair, so don't be afraid of this class for your GPA, just focus on enjoying and understanding the material. I should also say that you shouldn't focus on getting a lot of affirmation or encouragement; Professor Croxall is a really fair guy who is willing to help out, but he seems to pick favorites, especially ones who bring up points he already wanted to talk about. Don't worry about it too much, though, since I don't think his opinion of you shows in your grade. TL;DR, If you can focus on passing, having a little fun, and understanding digital humanities, you can just sit back and enjoy the ride.

Dear future digital humanities students, My name is-- ah, ah. I read the instructions. I'm here to tell you everything you need to know about the instructor, class, assignments, and readings of digital humanities. In that order. Let's begin. 1. Instructor. Professor Croxall is a great professor and a smart man. He has organized this class very carefully, and I bet he spends more time preparing for each class than the students do, which is more than I can say of many other professors I've had. From what I've seen of him, he wants you to grapple with-- even push back against-- challenging ideas that you'll encounter in the class. One thing you ought to know though: he's a pretty direct person, so he'll push right back. 2. Class. In this class, you'll learn what digital humanities is. If, like me, you want a precise definition at the beginning, that won't happen. Through the different units, you'll learn about different parts of the field, including the fact that it's new enough that scholars are still struggling to find a definition that works for everybody. This isn't a hard class. It doesn't require excessive amounts of time. Oh, and you'll have to work in groups a lot, just a heads up. 3. Assignments. You're going to be doing some fun stuff this semester. It'll involve literature, google maps, movies, writing, playing video games, and more. Professor Croxall gives very specific assignment descriptions. If you like to have things spelled out for you, you're in luck. If you're a rebel who hates being told what to do, you'll probably be sad and moody. 4. Reading. There's always reading to do before class, but usually it's not horribly long. One thing that's good about the readings is that a lot of them are written by people who study digital humanities, and humanities people tend to write to be understood. There are also novels and online articles, which are accessible and entertaining. Good luck in this class! I bet you'll enjoy it. Signed, ...Nice try! I'll remain anonymous forever.

This class is great! Do the readings or else class discussions will seem super pointless. They're not too long and they're always relevant. Dr. Croxall is a fun discussion leader, but he pushes back when you say things that prove you don't what you're talking about. Literally everything in this class, including exams, is group work, so get ready for that. The workload gets less intense towards the end of the class, which is nice. Overall, it's a fun class, and there's enough variety in the kinds of projects and readings that we do to guarantee at least something in the class will be interesting.

Dear Future Students, I think one of the most important things to know about Professor Croxall is that he genuinely wants every student to succeed and is willing to help each individual. It's important to him to really get to know each student and he takes a lot of care in planning out assignments in ways that students will be able to understand each step and receive the help that they need. He's never out to get you and wants you to do well. If an assignment seems overwhelming, it's probably because he hasn't fully explained it yet--he talks you through each step and makes new tasks manageable. The only part of the course when I felt somewhat overwhelmed was during the time that we had large reading assignments for Pattern Recognition (this was mostly because I'm a slow reader and I also had a lot going on in my other classes). I'm glad, however, that I put in the effort to keep up on all the reading because it was actually interesting, and I was able to be engaged in class discussions. My main piece of advice would be to choose to participate throughout the course--it's very discussion-based and explores new ideas that are interesting if you choose to engage. Other than that, just make sure you keep up on blogging. Don't be intimidated by the blogging assignment--as long as you're putting in a good effort, you will do well. Good luck!

If you are accustomed to professors who are open to new interpretations and ideas, Dr. Croxall is not the professor for you. He often asks questions that he wants a specific answer to and does not seem to like it if you express a different opinion than him. However, you are introduced to interesting articles and thoughts from the reading, but the discussions will simply revolve around his thoughts about them. However, it's an okay class This just seems to be common in professors of the digital humanities that actually talk about the humanities at BYU.

Dear Future Students, I hope you enjoy this class and are able to allow the new thought processes and perspectives to help you grow. My favorite project of the semester was the movie image summation project. I think this project was very helpful in understanding the digital humanities more and was fun and interactive. I think one important thing to know is that Dr. Croxall and many of the students in the class have strong opinions, but they are also open to hearing yours. Don't hesitate to share your insights even if they conflict with others in the class. My biggest piece of advice is to ask lots of questions! The digital humanities is a very unique field and at times, it is hard to see how all the pieces connect. Actively try to find those connections, and talk with classmates and the professor to better understand how they all connect. Dr. Croxall is always happy to meet with and help students—make use of his office hours and the TA! The times where I have done this are the times when I have felt the most confident and clear in my understanding of digital humanities as well as the purpose of each assignment. Best of luck!