

DigHT 215, Fall 2021

Write a short letter to future students in this class (or other classes I teach). Please tell them what you think is most important for being successful with the assignments, the reading, the class, or (let's be honest) dealing with me.

Don't just skim the reading. You want to understand what's happening, or it won't be useful to you (this seems obvious but as college students, we cut corners where we can). The more you think about the reading the more you'll get out of this class. Blogging helps with this, so stay caught up on your blog posts. Don't. Procrastinate. Your. Blog posts.

Something a classmate said about Croxall that really resonated with me was that he is simultaneously the most relatable and intimidating professor you'll have. Don't be afraid of him, don't be afraid to participate. Lean into the open environment that he creates in his classes, and you'll enjoy it all the more.

On the first day of class, Dr. Croxall described the course as throwing a bunch of fish in the air and seeing what would happen (that's one of the very few notes I took in the class). I'm still not entirely sure what that means, but it's not wrong--and it's not bad!

He will not tell you many things (e.g., about tests or projects) ahead of time, but the things are never a nasty surprise. Everything is always clearly outlined and pretty manageable when they come in their time. Just let him keep whatever little suspense-based power likes to hold over you and don't stress about it too much, and all will be fine :)

Though we haven't been officially graded on it yet, participation in class seems to be a big deal in the gradebook. I think the madness of the first day should help you bond in shared confusion with the rest of the class and make it an open learning environment where you can share whatever, whenever. It can be hard when Dr. Croxall fishes for a specific answer in class; even if it feels like he attacks what you say, it's (probably) not personal, and (probably) worth it for the participation points, so just go for it!

In projects, I focus on thinking in terms of patterns and takeaways vs. superficial observations, and that seems to be bueno. To prep for the midterm, make a document to copy down every quote that gets brought up in class as it happens, and don't worry about it again until the week before. There's not much to do to prep besides knowing the quotes, so it's easier to do it as you go along than try to remember and search for them later.

PS--I am writing this in class, on the spot, and feel just a bit pressured for time; apologies if the thoughts are scattered!

Hello!

If you want to be successful, I recommend actually enjoying the class and the subjects covered. This class is structured to help you learn, so if you pay attention most of the time and do the reading you'll be golden. Just make sure that you actually try to learn, you will regret in your soul and your grade if you just cruise through.

-another student

Dear Future Students,

This class is a great one. If you have a positive attitude and genuinely put effort into the assignments then you will have fun. To be successful on the assignments it is as simple as following the instructions. Sometimes the readings can be long or a little convoluted, but this is a humanities class, so that's something to just get used to. It is important to do the readings, otherwise you won't really be able to do the assignments or make any insightful comments in class. Professor Croxall has a strong spirit and isn't afraid to say what he thinks, so some may find him intimidating. Personally, I think that he has a great sense of humor and that he is very down to earth, so there is nothing to be afraid of. He is always willing to help and gives great feedback. Just overall a great course and professor. Would recommend.

If you put in the time for the readings and projects, you'll be fine. It's a fun class.

Hi everyone,

So, in the interest of being completely honest, I thought for sure I was going to fail this class the first couple weeks. For probably the first month, I felt like I had absolutely no idea what I was doing and I was pretty sure at some point Professor Croxall was going to figure that out. Turns out none of that was true. (Take a deep breath, it'll be fine.) I don't know at what point I started to understand what we were even doing in this class, because it goes so many directions, one after another. We were analyzing Joyce's writings, then suddenly we were talking about sexism in video games. Then I blinked and we were talking about copyright law. It's wild. And I was honestly so confused for a solid month. And then I looked back and started to realize that, even though I felt like I didn't know anything, I actually did. I think it took me 6 weeks to actually say something in class because I was afraid I'd be wrong, and, the thing is, I wish I'd spoken up sooner, because the class is all about hearing your thoughts on these seemingly random things you're learning about. Also, something I really appreciated about the assignments is that they walk you through every single little thing you have to do. I think every assignment was a first for me in this class; I'd never done anything like them before. But I never found myself confused as to what Professor Croxall wanted from me. Don't procrastinate, especially the blog posts, but honestly, if you're trying, you're going to do well in this class.

The best of luck to all of you!

This was one of the most fun classes that I had the pleasure of taking this semester. It was an easy class, but I don't say that because it's a slough class or an easy A. I would say that it was an easy class because I enjoyed everything we did in class and nearly everything we read (though a few of the readings weren't my cup of tea, they were still interesting to discuss) and so didn't mind the work that we had to do for it.

Be advised that group projects are a big part of this class and that may be a problem for some, but as long as everyone there does their part it isn't bad at all. Like I said all of the projects are interesting and fun, so it's not like pulling teeth like many group projects are. I generally dislike group projects, so coming from me this is significant.

You should also know that the assignments in this class as well as the tests can be somewhat strange and that may throw you off for a bit because you aren't sure what to expect, but Prof. Croxall is more than willing to explain things further and the assignments are generally straightforward so it shouldn't be too much of a problem.

Professor Croxall's class is awesome. The assignments and the readings are interesting. They are demanding but not arduous, so make time to do them: they'll get done fastest if you commit. As long as you are doing the readings and finishing the blog posts, you'll be okay. The projects can be time consuming, but they're not too bad and they're graded fairly. They're interesting as well, so it shouldn't be too bad.

Ultimately, if you're willing to do a little bit of work, you'll get a lot out of the class.

Coming into this class knowing absolutely nothing about digital humanities, I surely felt intimidated by what I was signing up for but in the long run this class has been better than I thought it would be. Even if you feel that you have 0 interest on the first day, there will be engaging projects to make this class better and more exciting. It definitely is something new to consider trying out.

It's really important to do the readings and assignments. If you do them, you will be able to participate in class and understand the discussion and material more fully. Also, it's important to contribute. Student participation brought a lot of new insights and fun conversations to class and made the material more interesting.

This class is really fun and was the only one that I looked forward to. We were able to have discussions and read material that I don't think I would have thought of before. That being said, you must do the reading and be on top of all the projects because in order to get the most out of the class, you need to be present. Form your own opinions, and if you don't have any, make some. This class is only fun if you put in the work first.