

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.

Hello Future Student,

I have a few small pieces of advice that I can offer for succeeding in a class with Professor Croxall. First off, I can remember that first day of classes and starting to worry about whether he was genuinely trying to scare us off, if he was playing it up, if the course would be more difficult than he was implying, or if he was just a character... If you can't tell I'm an over-thinker. It's not as bad as that first day makes it seem. Assignments and readings are fairly easy to stay on top of and he's always open to questions, even if you have no idea what's going on. He is always available to answer questions, talk about things you are interested in, discuss your progress/grades or even help you with projects. He is literally always there to help you out, take full advantage! Second, the first couple readings will kind of suck because you don't know what's going on; discussions in class will make it much easier and you'll start to get the hang of it. Third, figure out a schedule and stick with it. Procrastination is not your friend in this class and it's much much easier to get blogging and comments started early before midterms start to take you out. (Also, it's not as hard as it sounds to get "excellent" scores in the blog posts, it sounds like you have to completely blow his mind but no; just put some thought into it and try connect to your own life/previously discussed topics and you're golden). Fourth, and I suppose this ties into the first one, the midterm is not as bad as it sounds especially that secret second part. Remember the concepts you learned and be ready to explain your thinking. No big deal. Overall, it's actually quite an enjoyable class and it's not nearly as bad as you may start to think it is.

Good luck (though I doubt you'll need it, you got this)

If you're beginning to feel like your college experience is akin to being force fed bran muffins and sewage, I would recommend taking this class. The atmosphere and assignments are a breath of fresh air for anybody who is questioning their purpose in this Latter-Day Gulag. Professor Croxall is witty and entertaining, and you honestly don't need to be afraid to ask him questions about the content. If you say something dumb in class, he may lightly make fun of you, though never in a mean way. If that's a deal breaker for you, you should get over it and take the class anyway.

Hello, students of Dr. Croxall. Some advice I would offer you is to prepare for class enough to be really engaged. Dr. Croxall values your thoughts, opinions, and perspectives, and wants to hear from you in discussions. Also he grades you on it, so... If you're in DIGHT 215 (or probably any other course), come into it with an open mind. You get to do fun projects that might be fairly different from other courses you've taken. Though you might not be fascinated by everything you read/do in the class, I personally felt like I learned a lot by being open to different ways of thinking and studying. Lastly, I would just say that Dr. Croxall cares a lot about his students and you shouldn't hesitate to reach out for help. I had some really good conversations both about classwork and personal difficulties I was having, and he was eager to listen and help.

Good luck!

Future Student,

I'm jealous that you get to take this class because I really enjoyed it and would love to take it again. It can be a little weird at times and the assignments/projects that you will work on are definitely different than what you've done before in school, but I think you will enjoy them.

My advice to you is to get started early on assignments, like as soon as they are given to you. Blog every week consistently (but only if you have something good to say), so by the end of the semester you won't have to worry about it anymore. I would also keep track of how many comments you give throughout the semester because I definitely lost count and have been unsure of if I've given the right amount or not.

I would also suggest that you get to know Professor Croxall and don't be afraid to ask for his help. He is super willing to help you with projects and assignments so just email him.

Good luck in class! I'm sure you will love it :)

This class has its ups and downs as most classes do but the differentiating factor is that this class tries to be a lot of things all at once. Throughout this course you'll find yourself asking, is this a humanities class? An English class? A debate class? What type of class is this exactly? The catch is you won't know. Professor Croxall explicitly says he won't tell you what this class is about. In my opinion, this is a huge red flag. You are spending a lot of time, money and energy going to school in order to make a life for yourself and your future family. Do not waste your time. If you have doubts, questions, or concerns about this course, I suggest you go to Professor Croxall's office and meet with him one-on-one before the add-drop deadline and tell him about yourself. Tell him why you are in school, and what you hope to learn and study and become. Most importantly ask him if your plans for your schooling are in-line with the trajectory of the class. If they aren't then absolutely drop the class. If this class does sound like a good fit, well then go for it.

This class is honestly really fascinating. Professor Croxall is really good at making this course different and unique so it doesn't feel like every other class you are taking. But be involved. Do the readings and participate in class discussions. That will make the class even better. Really think about the concepts that you are learning and you will find that you are pushing yourself to think about things that you may not have thought of before. But it is a cool process and something that you will be able to use the rest of your life. Hang in there, have fun and get to know your class!

If you like doing weird things that you'll probably never do in your life again because they hold no relevance for you, take this class. You might learn about some new technologies, and if that's your thing, go for it. Stay on top of the readings (which you will most likely hate), otherwise you'll be up a creek. Don't put it off, it will catch up to you! If you're looking for a class to take just because you need the credits, don't take this one. I don't think it'll be enjoyable unless you are actually interested in the course material. I would've dropped this class if I'd have been able to.

This class is a little funky! It's definitely not your typical college course. By that, I mean the content is very abstract and makes you think in different ways than you are used to. It's not hard, it's just different. Lectures are mostly discussion based and they build off of readings and classmates' blog posts, so it's important to keep up with both of those so you know what's going on in class. Overall, the most important thing is to consistently make your blog posts so you aren't stressed or stuck at the end of the semester with no more opportunities to blog. It's a fun class so come in with an open mind and enjoy!

If you like theory and are interested in the weirdness of modern technology/society, you'll love this class. The readings are quite short and generally interesting, so they're not hard to stay on top of, which you'll want to do. Going to class is also vital, though again it is usually entertaining to attend, so this isn't hard. The class is structured around a number of small projects that relate to each unit of material. These projects are, for the most part, simple to complete, but the more time you spend thinking about them, the more you will gain from them and the easier it will be to write the reflection paper required at the end of each project. Dr. Croxall cares deeply about the material and making sure that his students are learning it in the best way possible, so he would almost always appreciate your questions and comments. It's probably possible to put minimal thought into the course content and still get a good grade, but I'm not sure why anyone would want to do that when the content is equally strange and relevant to being a human living in the 21st century. Lean into the weirdness of the class and the way it's taught, and I can guarantee you'll enjoy it and learn from it.

From the moment Professor Croxall walked in with his brightly colored converse and bow tie, I knew he was going to be a fun professor. Most of the assignments will have you confused and questioning the reasoning or validity of them, but they turn out to be way more useful than I could have expected. Don't expect a straight answer on what the digital humanities is about because it turns out, it's kind of up to you. He comes up with fun projects and is a very engaging professor. If you put effort in, you'll do fine!

Get off on the right foot in this class. It isn't difficult, sometimes assignments are strenuous and difficult but Professor Croxall is a very fair grader and it isn't hard to succeed if you do the work. If your goal is to get an easy A, I would suggest doing all you blog posts the first 7 weeks and commenting twice a week. The end of the semester will be a breeze. However, I looked ahead and planned out blog posts for readings I thought would be interesting and it made writing a lot more fun. Get to know your classmates for the final. Take notes on all the readings for the midterm. Attend the midterm review sessions. It's an easy class if you do these things.

This class is great! to be able to be successful, make sure to do all of the readings so that you are able to understand the discussions in class, but to also be able to participate in the discussion. Make sure you plan ahead to write your blog posts and comments, so that you are able to get them all done within the semester. Brian Croxall does not give away a lot of details about the Midterm and final, but know that you will do just fine. Make sure you are paying attention in class and taking good notes so that you will be successful.

Dear Future Students,

Do not drop this class, even if it feels overwhelming on the first day or two. Professor Croxall has been my absolute favorite professor this year and is definitely in my top 5 favorite professors. I think the most important thing to remember is that if an assignment feels easy and you plan to do it last minute, do not do it last minute. Sometimes assignments are broken up into small parts and it is easy to forget, so do the small assignments all at once or within a couple days.

There can be a lot of readings, but what I have realized is that you really only need to know the main points, do not stress on the first couple readings, it will get easier to understand. Plus he always goes over the readings, so I was never totally lost even when the readings were difficult to understand.

Also, a random fun fact is that Professor Croxall was in a band with Travis Barker when he was younger and that's something I will never stop telling people. That's how cool he is.

Dear future students,

It's pretty easy to be successful in this class as long as you follow the instructions on assignments and get your work done on time. With some major exceptions (including part of the midterm and part of the final exam), the expectations for various things you do in class are clear.

Best of luck!