

DigHT 215, Fall 2023

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.

Take the class, future student. It won't be easy and you're often juggling assignments, but many of the class topics are interesting, and you'll never find them in another class at BYU. What other class gives you the opportunity to talk about video games and film compositions for two straight weeks each?

As far as readings go, start early on reading it and don't be afraid to give your opinions on it. Participation is, unfortunately, graded, so don't forget about that. Some of the best in-class discussions occur thanks to a starting opinion and then just going from there. Plus Dr. Croxall likes seeing contrasting opinions and a healthy debate.

Honestly this is a really enjoyable class if you come with a desire to learn. It can feel a bit heavy with readings or projects that seem a bit monotonous, but the majority of readings and projects are interesting and relevant. Professor Croxall is really easy to work with, super willing to help, and always presents interesting ideas. He seems to care about students and puts forth effort to learn the name of each student and remember key details about them. The concepts we learned in class are things I will think about in the future and the class exposed me to new ideas, forced me to learn about things I wasn't interested in before, and impacted the way I think about the media I confront every day. Because of these reasons, I am glad I took the class. Once you accept that you have to dedicate time to the readings and are willing to participate in class, you will get a good grade and the class will become both engaging and enjoyable.

This class was great for me because I like to learn about concepts that I was either not familiar with, or that I had a lot of thoughts about. There is a lot of discussion in class because we discuss the readings and the thoughts we have about them, and personally I enjoyed listening to what my classmates had to say and what the bigger picture is in relation to the Digital Humanities. There is a lot of reading, so make sure to parse out your time wisely and be aware of when things are due, and what you need to do in order to get the most out of this class. Professor Croxall is a very intriguing person. He asks great questions during class to get your thoughts going, provides explanations and things that you might not understand. I think that he may seem a little "expressionless" at times, but over time you'll realize he's super funny and even quirky. I enjoyed being in his class, and I think adding a little humanities essence to the digital makes you a more well rounded person. So give this class and Professor Croxall a chance:)

This class is weird. Probably one of the weirdest I've taken at BYU. It's not bad, just strange. You'll have a chance to do a lot of things you probably would never bother to do or think of doing otherwise. Some may be interesting and some not, but none of them will be particularly hard and stressful. If you keep up to date on all the work, particularly posts, everything will go pretty smoothly and it'll be hard to not get a good grade. The class will also be less awkward if you contribute to the discussions. If you don't you may be graced with any variation of incitements to speak such as being called on randomly or letting a silence drag on as Prof. Croxall watches, judging, waiting for someone to be annoyed enough to speak. Honestly, the class is weird but fun, and you'll get the most out of it if you contribute and stay on top of work. Prof. Croxall is pretty accommodating overall, so don't worry about anything.

This was a really great class to take! I wouldn't say it is easy, as you definitely have to put the effort in, but the work is manageable and oftentimes fun. I feel that the most important key to success in this class is engagement. Make sure to come to class prepared (having done the readings) and be ready to discuss what you have read in class. The grading criteria might seem to be not too clear at the beginning of the semester, but Professor Croxall is a fair grader, and if you put the effort in and follow his instructions, getting a good grade is very doable.

It is important to know that there is a lot of reading for this class. Not only do you have to do the reading, you have assignments to do with them before class. It is not reading once a week, it is an hour-two hour of reading before each class period. We have multiple group projects, papers, and presentations. There are no tests other than the midterm and the final, and those are a little bit out of the ordinary. Professor Croxall wants his students to be successful and enjoys teaching the content of this class. If you do not enjoy reading, writing (a lot of it), or having classes based on class discussions, this may not be the class for you. Attendance is important for this class. This class is not difficult, it just takes a lot of dedication. :)

I had taken other DigHT classes before this one--230 and 260--and I thought that this class would be similar. Maybe we would do some coding or work with Photoshop or InDesign to make things. I quickly realized that this class wasn't going to be focusing on those areas of the digital humanities. This class is weird. You do things that you haven't thought of before and things that you might think are useless. And it's not particularly easy, either. But it's fun. Though some of the readings assigned are a bit on the denser side of things, the projects in the class are fun because they aren't your typical assignments. While on one hand, that can make them a little tricky (I've never written a paper on video games before), but on the other hand, it can be very freeing; I didn't have any past experience--good or bad--with video game papers, so I didn't feel a lot of pressure to fit a specific style or argument. DigHT 215 is a class about exploring, so get ready to think differently. Combine things that you've learned from outside this class with the concepts that you'll go over in class. Don't take yourself too seriously, and don't take Dr. Croxall too seriously, either. If he's making fun of someone, it's probably because he wants the class to be participating more. This class needs a high level of participation to make it worthwhile. Do the readings before class and come ready to talk about them--even if you aren't 100% sure what was going on.

Drop all expectations that you have about this class now, except that it will be like your high school English class in terms of reading and analyzing media. All but one assignment is based on the readings so it is important to read them no matter how dull, weird, or depressing they may be. The readings are all over the place on topics and meaning meant to be drawn. The difference in the readings and assignments helps to make the class interesting because you don't know what to expect each day in class.

DIGHT 215 was not what I expected it to be, and it was very different from most of the classes that I had taken before, which can create some fear and anxiety because our brains don't like things that are unpredictable. After the first week or two, you will start to get into a rhythm, and it can be a very interesting class. There are a lot of out-of-the-box assignments, but they are not too difficult, and some of them are fun. Just follow the step-by-step instructions that you are given, and you will be fine. Also, you won't be able to access the assignment descriptions until Dr. Croxall talks about them in class, which if you like to plan ahead can be frustrating, but nothing is too crazy that you will not be able to finish it in time.

Just like any class, or any thing, you get more out of it the more you engage. Nothing we're asked to do is incredibly difficult, so there's a certain degree that you can get by without thinking about anything that deeply, but it's worth putting effort into because the things we learn about can be really interesting. Try to let the assignments, readings, and discussions be things that spark your curiosity rather than things that exist to be checked off.

Dear students,

I loved this class so much! You will do best in this class if you are interested in the material, so find a way to be interested. Keep an open mind about the crazy weird assignments because most college classes will never be this interesting.

It's a small class, and you'll have to talk during class discussions. Good news is that the rest of the class is likely also introverted so it will be equally uncomfortable for everyone else to talk too.

Take this class.

That is all.