

DigHT 315, Winter 2018

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.

Dear Future Student, I have now taken two classes from Dr. Croxall and if I was not graduating this semester I would take another from him. I always know that when I come to class I am going to learn a lot. There is not so much homework or studying that it is overwhelming, but there is enough that you can have great discussions in class and learn a lot. Dr. Croxall clearly cares about his students, not only that they get a good grade, but that they learn a lot, they are challenged, and that they change the way they look at digital humanities and at the world. I was a bit skeptical of this class at the beginning of the semester and wondered if I would learn anything that was worthwhile, but I definitely learned a lot. Dr. Croxall makes sure to give you opportunities to try out the principles he teaches and to get the experience you need to do well at the new skills and technologies you learn. Dr. Croxall has been a fantastic instructor that has showed that he cares about the progress of all of his students. I'm never afraid to approach him with a question or problem. He is also very good at validating his students and making them feel like their contributions are important. He is the man! Sincerely, Maddie Calder

Dear Students, I hope you are excited for this class! It will be a good time. It will also be a learning experience. You will likely be reading a lot of poetry (if I had to guess it will likely be from a particular British poet), some of which you may hate. But with a grander perspective, it's not so bad. Be sure to participate and don't be afraid to ask questions because Professor Croxall is a respectful guy. Although your questions may lead him off on some tangents. Which may or may not be a bad thing. Stay on top of assignments, do the reading, and pay attention to the step-by-steps of using specific software given in class (you'll regret not paying attention once you get to doing assignments, trust me). Professor Croxall has a unique teaching style. There's a good chance you'll get to Skype with some of his DIGHT-famous friends during the course of the class. Have questions ready for them. It's a rare opportunity so take full advantage of it. Wishing you all the best. Sincerely, Maddie Calder

Dear Student, This is a great class! Dr. Croxall is fun, very understanding of people's schedules, and is willing to work with you in order to have a positive growing experience. I also actually quite enjoyed the more fluid structure of the class (even though I know it bothered Dr. Croxall) because I felt like we could spend more time on things that we found interesting, and it suited our own needs and interests. Dr. Croxall is pretty chill and even brings bagels sometimes, so I would 10/10 recommend. I also thought the class was very interesting. It was cool learning about different research methods and thinking of ways to study literature in ways I would never have considered before. It's kind of fulfilling doing these projects like the TEI edition or topic modeling because you get concrete results that aren't usually available in the humanities. The reading isn't very difficult or extensive, and we got around to discussing it sometimes. He would also have guests speak via Skype sometimes, and I appreciated that they were all female and showed how women can excel in this field. Overall, it was a great class, and I had a lot of fun! You'll love it! Sincerely, Maddie Calder

Dear Student, Congratulations on taking a Brian Croxall Course (TM)! Professor Croxall is an excellent teacher, and will guide you through the difficult and sometimes stressful world of the Digital Humanities with grace, elegance, and posture. And also sometimes bagels. Your key to surviving this course, and any Croxall Course, is keeping up with assignments. It's as simple as that. Sometimes, even this simple concept can be a challenge, as the Digital Humanities will often require you to conduct lab or research work in your free time, collaborate and organize meetings with others, and sometimes read a considerable amount of text in a short amount of time. But I have the utmost faith in your abilities, and if you remain focused on your tasks, and simply do the work put in front of you before each deadline, you'll pass the class with flying colors. So stay diligent, and enjoy the time you have with Professor Croxall: he truly is a wise man, and if you follow his instructions to the letter, you'll understand even the most difficult concepts of the Digital Humanities in no time at all. Sincerely, Maddie Calder