

DigHT 315, Winter 2019

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, Congratulations! I'm almost envious of the experience that lies before you. (Almost.) If you are interested, here are a few insights I would offer to help you in taking this class, knowing full well that the topic and research you will be doing will be unique to you and your classmates. First, Dr. Croxall is there to help. Please be sure to take the time to introduce yourself, and make use of the time he sets aside to help you in the class. One of my only regrets from this class is that I did not take as much time as I could have to visit him during office hours to discuss the material for the week and the projects. If you have any problems or concerns, be sure to meet with him. You'll rarely find a more understanding and available teacher, so don't squander your time in his class. Next, do the TEI Markup early and in small doses. Otherwise you will hate yourself. Third, always do the reading. If your class is anything like mine, not only is it important for participation and understanding, but all of the assignments came back to the core reading material. If you skip the reading at the beginning of the semester, you will be miserable later on. I have had many moments where I paused and thought, "This would be so much harder if I hadn't already read [insert poem here]. But now it all makes sense/[X] could mean [Y]/I need to reread that." Finally, I would just say to remember to have fun. Just because it is schoolwork doesn't mean you can't enjoy yourself doing it. Don't become so focused on your grade that you forget that sometimes in the Digital Humanities you just get to 'screw around.' (Ramsey's words, not mine.) Sincerely, A former student

Dear Future Student, The things you should know about Dr. Croxall are these: 1) He is very honest with you. If there is something he doesn't know or is unsure of, he owns up to it. 2) He is willing to help you. I came in this semester needing help on a paper with no more than the knowledge that I needed to write a paper, and he helped me get to a workable topic in a short amount of time. 3) He knows his stuff, but as said before, he'll tell you if he doesn't. My recommendations for the class: 1) Do the readings. Even if they are tedious and over your head, doing them will be so much better for you in class. Coming with questions like "I have no idea what this section meant can we talk about it?" is totally OK. 2) If you have questions--about the assignment, the readings, or whatever--ask. 3) Things might seem crazy and unconnected, but there is a method to the madness, just go with it. And the piece of advice: Enjoy the class, there aren't many that will make you think the way this one does. Best of luck, The Ghost of Students Past

Dear future student, Professor Croxall's classes are always engaging and enjoyable. You will learn a lot in his classes and he keeps everything relevant to current events which is nice. I enjoyed how much he taught about the discipline of digital humanities itself. As long as you do the readings thoroughly before each class period, do the homework on time while following his detailed instructions, and participate in class, you will get a good grade in the class. If you are ever struggling, he is always available to help you and makes time to meet with his students. You do have to put in a good amount of time for his readings, and some can be hard to understand, but if you put in the effort, it will be enough for class because he goes over them together with you. So basically, there is no reason that you will not get an A in his class unless you are lazy or unmotivated or just a bad student in general. If you have a Windows computer, get rid of it or you will have issues. Good luck.