

# DigHT 315, Winter 2022

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.

---

The thing it takes to be successful in this class is just trying. I know that's trite, but it's true. Some of the readings will be complicated, some of the class activities will be confusing, and some of the projects will be intimidating, but as long as you try, you'll be fine. I think the takeaway of Dr. Croxall's classes is don't be afraid to screw around in the digital humanities, and a lot of class time is spent messing around with Peanuts and seeing what happens. Classes are built around discussions, and there are many student-led ones, so be prepared for that. (But to give you an idea about how stressful discussions are, one day we spent about a half hour talking about girls wearing pants in Peanuts.) Honestly, it's a fun and pretty laid-back class. Go for it!

Hey future students,  
I'm not sure how to start this, so I'll just say hi and leave it at that.

The best advice I think I could give you is to manage your time. Start assignments early, and don't leave things until the last minute. I'm a terrible procrastinator, and from experience, procrastinating on some of these assignments will hurt. You will be stressed and tired and frustrated. I know because I was. So please try to start early if you can.

There will be readings you don't understand. That is okay. Don't panic. Don't worry. Just read it again, and write down your questions. It's fine to not understand everything. It's fine to be incredibly confused by what's going on. Some of this stuff makes no sense. I still don't fully understand some things we went over. Honestly, understanding how and why something works matters much less than learning how to interpret what you're looking at. Prof Croxall will explain things as best he can, but sometimes no one totally understands what's going on! That's fine, it's part of the fun of research! We're all there to learn and figure out what's going on. Don't let yourself become bogged down by not understanding the how it happened, and let yourself try to understand the what it means. There's a lot of math and technology (more than I expected going in) but remember, this is still humanities.

Good Luck!  
The Ghost of Students Past

To the lucky DH student,

Croxall's classes are designed in such a way to make you think differently than you have before. It's great, even if it's a little uncomfortable. Lean into it, don't be too intimidated to participate. Don't be afraid to be wrong. When doing assignments that allow you to choose something from a list, choose things you're genuinely interested in. Croxall is pretty good at giving you a good amount of time to finish big projects, but do them incrementally. Don't wait until the last minute, because that cheats you from having a good experience. Give yourself enough time to mess around and find out.