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Digital Literary and Cultural Studies: Six Degrees of Francis Bacon //

Schedule

The goal of this course is threefold: to give students a broad technical understanding of state-of-the-art methods in the digital humanities; to consider such methods in light of historical predecessors; and to run deep by illustrating their application in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies (ca. 1500-1700). Each class will generally include a short technical presentation on the methods (with ample time for questions) before opening up to a more seminar-style discussion focused on texts, documents, and problems related to the Renaissance/Early Modern period.

Week 1

Aug Introduction
26

Aug Dataset • Binkley (1935), "[New Tools for Men of Letters](#)"
28 design; Digital • Atkins et al. (1992), "[Corpus Design Criteria](#)," LLC.
 Humanities • Williams (1995), "Formations" (Ch. 3 from
 Sociology of Culture), pp. 57-86
 • Warren et al. (2013), "[An Entry of One's Own, or
Why Are There So Few Women In the Early Modern
Social Network?](#)"

- Daniels (2013), "[Legacy vs. Digital Models of Academic Scholarship](#)"

Aug No class
29

Week 2

Sep No class
2

Sep Networks
4

- Easley and Kleinberg (2010), *Networks, Crowds and Markets*, ch. 2 ("[Graphs](#)").
- Newman (2010), *Networks: An Introduction*, ch. 3 ("Social Networks")
- Michael Widner (2013), "[The Digital Humanists' \(Lack of\) Response to the Surveillance State](#)"
- Nadine Akkerman, "The Postmistress, the Diplomat, and a Black Chamber?: Alexandrine of Taxis, Sir Balthazar Gerbier, and the Power of Postal Control"
- Laura Gowing (1994), "Language, Power, and the Law: Women's Slander Litigation in Early Modern London"

Sep Lab
5

Week 3

Sep Networks
9

- Easley and Kleinberg (2010), *Networks, Crowds and Markets*, ch. 3 ("[Strong and Weak Ties](#)").
- Newman (2010), *Networks: An Introduction*, ch. 7 ("Measures and Metrics")
- Mac Carron and Kenna (2013), "[Network Analysis of Beowulf, the Iliad and the Táin Bó Cúailnge](#)"

Sep Networks and
• Bruno Latour (2005), *Reassembling the Social*,

11 Critical Theory
 "Introduction," Part I (pp. 1-158)
 • Alexander Galloway, "Networks"

Sep Lab
 12

Week 4

Sep Reading for the Network
 16

- Elson et al. (2010), ["Extracting Social Networks from Literary Fiction,"](#) ACL
- Patrick Jagoda, "Wired"
- Stiller et al. (2003), ["The Small World of Shakespeare's Plays,"](#) Human Nature
- Franco Moretti (2011), "Network Theory, Plot Analysis"

Sep Six Degrees of Francis Bacon
 18

- "Digging into Data" grant proposal
- Ruth Ahnert and Sebastian Ahnert, "Protestant Letter Networks in the Reign of Mary I: A Quantitative Approach"

Sep Lab
 19

Week 5

Sep Information Diffusion
 23

- Easley and Kleinberg (2010), *Networks, Crowds and Markets*, ch. 16 (["Information Cascades"](#)).
- Adar et al. (2004), ["Implicit Structure and the Dynamics of Blogspace"](#)
- Leskovec et al., ["Meme-Tracking and the Dynamics of the News Cycle,"](#) KDD.
- Paul Arblaster, "Posts, Newsletters, Newspapers: England in a European System of Communications"

Sep
 25

- Lotan et al. (2011), ["The Revolutions Were Tweeted: Information Flows during the 2011 Tunisian](#)

[and Egyptian Revolutions," IJOC](#)

- John Law, "On the Methods of Long-Distance Control: Vessels, Navigation, and the Portuguese Route to India"
- F.J. Levy, "How Information Spread Among the Gentry"

Sep 26 Guest speaker: Elaine Parsons

Week 6

Sep 30 Validity

- Krippendorff (2004), "Validity," *Content Analysis*
- **Primary source project due.**

Oct 2

- Roberts (2013), "[Linguistic Diversity and Traffic Accidents: Lessons from Statistical Studies of Cultural Traits](#)," PLOS One
- Francis Bacon, from *Novum Organum*
- Robert Filmer, from *Patriarchia*
- Thomas Hobbes, from *Leviathan*

Oct 3 Lab

Week 7

Oct 7 Search

- Manning et al. (2009), "Boolean Search," From [Introduction to Information Retrieval](#).
- William Sherman, "Sir Julius Caesar's Search Engine" from *Used Books*
- Noel Malcolm, "Thomas Harrison and his 'Ark of Studies': An Episode in the History of the Organization of Knowledge"
- Ann Blair, from *Too Much to Know: Managing Scholarly Information before the Modern Age*

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| Oct
9 | Code and
Decipherment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaver (1949), "Translation" • Reddy and Knight (2011), What We Know About the Voynich Manuscript," LaTeCH. • Henry Veggian, "The State as a Work of Literature," pp. 78-91 from Mercury of the Waves: Modern Cryptology and U.S. Literature • Francis Bacon from book VI, De Augmentis Scientiarum |
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Oct 10	Lab
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Week 8

Oct 14	Project proposal collaborative time.
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| Oct
16 | Ontologies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latour (2005), <i>Reassembling the Social</i>, part II (pp. 159-262) • Alexander Galloway and Eugene Thacker, "Notes for a Liberated Computer Language" from <i>The Exploit: A Theory of Networks</i> • John Donne, selected poems |
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Oct 17	Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project proposal due.
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Week 9

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| Oct
21 | Macroanalysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from Jockers, <i>Macroanalysis</i> • Selections from Moretti, <i>Graphs, Maps, and Trees</i> |
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| Oct
23 | Cultural
trends over
time. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel et al. (2010), "Quantitative Analysis of Culture Using Millions of Digitized Books", <i>Science</i>. • Supplement |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---|

- Selections from Skinner, *Liberty Before Liberalism*

Oct Lab
24

Week 10

Oct Cultural
16 trends over
time

- Brooks (2013), ["What Our Words Tell Us,"](#) NYT.
- Twenge et al. (2012), ["Increases in Individualistic Words and Phrases in American Books, 1960-2008"](#), PLOS One
- Liberman (2013), ["Ngram Morality"](#) Language Log.
- Liberman (2012), ["Textual Narcissism,"](#) Language Log.

Oct
30

- Heuser and Le-Khac (2012), ["A Quantitative Literary History of 2,958 Nineteenth-Century British Novels: the Semantic Cohort Method,"](#) Stanford Literary Lab 4.
- Daniel Shore (2010), ["WWJD?: The Genealogy of a Syntactic Form"](#)

Oct Lab:
31 Probability

- Reference: Manning and Schütz (1999), ["Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing"](#) ch. 2, "Mathematical Foundations"
- from Ian Hacking (2006), *The Emergence of Probability*
- Luke Wilson, "Drama and Marine Insurance in Elizabethan London"

Week 11

Nov Clustering
4 and Topic
Models

- Manning and Schütz (1999), ["Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing"](#) ch. 14, "Clustering"
- Lawrence Stone, "Prosopography" (1971)
- David Como, "Print, Censorship, and Ideological Escalation in the English Civil War"

- Nov 6
- Blei (2012), "[Probabilistic Topic Models](#)" (CACM).
 - Blei (2013), "[Topic Modeling and the Digital Humanities](#)", *Journal of Digital Humanities*
 - Weingart (2012), "[Topic Modeling for Humanists: A Guided Tour](#)"

Nov 7 Guest
 speaker:
 Patrick Juola

Week 12

- Nov 11 Clustering
- Boyd-Graber et al. (2009), "[Reading Tea Leaves: How Humans Interpret Topic Models](#)," NIPS.
 - Schmidt (2013), "[Words Alone: Dismantling Topic Models in the Humanities](#)," *Journal of Digital Humanities*.

- Nov 13 Classification
- Manning and SchütZ (1999), *Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing*, ch. 16, "Text Categorization"
 - John Wilkins, from An Essay towards a Real Character, and a Philosophical Language
 - Jorge Luis Borges, "The Analytical Language of John Wilkins"

Nov 14 Lab

Week 13

- Nov 18 Classification
- Mosteller and Wallace (1963), "[Inference in an Authorship Problem](#)," JASA.
 - Jockers et al. (2010), "[A comparative study of machine learning methods for authorship attribution](#)," LLC

- Tweedie et al, "The Provenance of De Doctrina Christiana, attributed to John Milton: A Statistical Investigation"
- Selections from Reynolds and Saxonhouse, "Statistical Wordprinting" in Three Discourses: A Critical Edition of Newly Identified Work of the Young Hobbes, pp. 157-170 (1995)

Nov 20 Classification

- Kao and Jurafsky (2012), "[A Computational Analysis of Style, Affect, and Imagery in Contemporary Poetry](#)," CLFL.
- Underwood et al. (2013), "Mapping Genre in Digital Libraries"
- Jonathan Hope and Michael Witmore, "The Hundredth Psalm to the Tune of 'Green Sleeves': Digital Approaches to Shakespeare's Language of Genre"
- The Marprelate Controversy: choose 1 of the [Marplate tracts](#)

Nov 21 Lab

Week 14

Nov 25 Visualizing arguments

- Selections from Rosenberg and Grafton, Cargographies of Time: A History of the Timeline
- Frederic Jameson, "Cognitive Mapping" from Postmodernism, or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism ([Section VI](#))
- Drucker (2011), "[Graphesis: Visual knowledge production and representation](#)"

Nov 27 No class

Nov 28 No class

Week 15

Dec
2

Student presentations

Week 16

Dec
9

Final projects due

Image: *Typographus. Der Buchdrucker (The Printer)*. From *Panoplia omnium illiberalium mechanicarum (The Book of Trades)*, Jost Amman, 1568.

Theme: **Twenty Eleven.**