

## **Independent Study Proposal - Fall 2020**

### **Description:**

This independent study will focus on the intersections between the digital humanities, cultural heritage, and education in terms of affect. The course materials will examine how technology has shaped our understanding of affect, particularly in educational and cultural heritage institutions. The study will examine how digital humanities work uses technology to incorporate the affective, and how such methods promote inclusivity. By the end of this project, I will be able to draw connections between the emotions attached to important cultural, historical, and memory work and the complicated relationships people have with technology from a humanistic approach.

### **Rationale:**

Through this independent study, I aim to synthesize my research interests and work toward my own research for my dissertation. There are no course offerings this semester that match the work I am hoping to do for this project that combine affect, education, cultural heritage, and the digital humanities. This independent study will be focused and interdisciplinary, but rooted in a literary studies understanding of affect theory.

### **Preparation:**

I have already completed the general literary theory course, ENG802, as part of my program. I am hoping to build on this work in a deeper exploration of affect theory. My previous experience as a project manager for a Digital Humanities center and my work on the planning committee for MSU's Global Digital Humanities Symposium have provided me with an extensive background on DH research. This summer, I've worked to create digital educational modules for the Broad Art Museum and participated in basic research on cultural heritage institutions, affect, and the digital. These skills and experiences mean that I am in a strong position to undertake the proposed independent study.

### **Work to be completed:**

Throughout this independent study, I will read one academic book in addition to two to three articles per week. At the end of the semester, this research will result in a paper that can either be presented at a conference or published. Ideally, this project will satisfy the research of the Digital Humanities Graduate Certificate.

## **Draft Syllabus/Schedule:**

Week 0 – 9/2-9/4 (Labor Day)

### **Introduction to Affect Theory**

Week 1 – 9/8-9/11

- *The Affect Theory Reader*, eds. Melissa Gregg and Gregory J. Seigworth
- “Affect Theory Dossier: An Introduction,” Marta Figelrowicz
- “Introduction: Emotional Histories--Beyond the Personalization of the Past and the Abstraction of Affect Theory,” Stephanie Trigg
- “The Turn to Affect and Emotion in Media Studies,” Margreth Lünenborg and Tanja Maier

Week 2 – 9/14-9/18

- *Affect Theory and Literary Critical Practice: A Feel for the Text*, ed. Stephen Ahern
- “Poetics of affect,” Hermann Kappelhoff and Hauke Lehmann
- “Writing affect,” Anne Fleig

### **Affect, DH, and Higher Education**

Week 3 – 9/21-9/25

- *Mapping the Affective Turn in Education: Theory, Research and Pedagogy*, ed. Bessie P. Dernikos, et al.
- “Digital Pedagogy Unplugged,” Paul Fyfe
- “Feminist Politics of Emotions and Critical Digital Pedagogies: A Call to Action,” Megan Boler

Week 4 – 9/28-10/2

- *The Digital Academic: Critical Perspectives on Digital Technologies in Higher Education*, eds. Deborah Lupton, et al.
- “Humanistic Theory and Digital Scholarship,” Johanna Drucker
- “‘This Is Why We Fight’: Defining the Values of the Digital Humanities,” Lisa Spiro

### **Affect, DH, and Cultural Heritage**

Week 5 – 10/5-10/9

- *Emotion, Affective Practices, and the Past in the Present*, eds. Laurajane Smith, et. al
- “Doing Things: Emotion, Affect, and Materiality,” Jo Labanyi

- “The practice and potential of heritage emotion and research: an experimental mixed-methods approach to investigating affect and emotion in a historic house,” Jessica Hoare

Week 6 – 10/12-10/16

- *Heritage, Affect, and Emotion: Politics, Practices, and Infrastructures*, eds. Divya P. Tolia-Kelly, et al.
- “Old objects, new media: Historical collections, digitization, and affect,” Jenny Newell
- “*With New Eyes I See*: embodiment, empathy, and silence in digital heritage interpretation,” Jenny Kidd

Week 7 – 10/19-10/23

- *Cultural Heritage Infrastructures in the Digital Humanities*, eds. Agiatis Benardou, et al.
- “Digital Humanities in the 21st Century: Digital Material as a Driving Force,” Niels Brügger
- “The Sensitive Perception of Cultural Heritage’s Materiality through Digital Technologies,” Clement Serain

Week 8 – 10/26-10/30

- *Feminism, Digital Culture, and the Politics of Transmission: Theory, Practice, and Cultural Heritage*, by Deborah Withers
- “Designing Heritage for a Digital Culture,” Rachel Charlotte Smith
- “A feminist perspective on digital geographies: activism, affect and emotion, and gendered human-technology relations in Australia,” Jessica McLean, et al.

**Affect, Emotion, and an Ethics of Care in the Digital Humanities**

Week 9 – 11/2-11/6

- *Intersectionality in the Digital Humanities*, eds. Barbara Bordalejo and Roopika Risam
- “Can Digital Humanities Mean Transformative Critique?,” Alexis Lothian and Amanda Phillips
- “Mapping Access: Digital Humanities, Disability Justice, and Sociospatial Practice,” Aimi Hamraie
- “Why Are the Digital Humanities So White? or Thinking the Histories of Race and Computation,” Tara McPherson

Week 10 - 11/9-11/13

- *Bodies of Information: Intersectional Feminism and the Digital Humanities*, eds. Elizabeth Losh and Jacqueline Wernimont

- “Putting the Human Back Into the Digital Humanities: Feminism, Generosity, and Mess,” Elizabeth Losh, et al.
- “#transform(ing) DH Writing and Research: An Autoethnography of Digital Humanities and Feminist Ethics,” Moya Bailey
- “Feminist Data Visualization,” Catherine D’Iganio and Lauren F. Klein

Week 11 – 11/16-11/20

- *New Digital Worlds: Postcolonial Digital Humanities in Theory, Praxis, and Pedagogy*, by Roopika Risam
- “Digital Diasporas: Postcoloniality, Media and Affect,” Sandra Ponzanesi
- “Digital Humanities on the Ground: Post-Access Politics and the Second Wave of Digital Humanities,” Nishant Shah
- “On digital crossings in Europe,” Sandra Ponzanesi and Koen Leurs

Week 12 – 11/23-11/25 (Thanksgiving)

- *Numbered Lives: Life and Death in Quantum Media*, Jacqueline Wernimont
- Submit proposal and outline for final project

### **The Performativity of Affect and the Digital**

Week 13 – 11/30-12/4

- *Media Practices, Social Movements, and Performativity*, eds. Susanne Foellmer, et al.
- “Performative pedagogies: feeling the experience of being (the) social in twenty-first century learning,” Byroni Trezise
- “Performative Materiality and Theoretical Approaches to Interface,” Johanna Drucker

Week 14 – 12/7-12/11

- *Performing the Digital: Performativity and Performance Studies in Digital Culture*, eds. Timon Beyes, et al.
- “Reading for Enactment: A Performative Approach to Digital Scholarship and Data Visualization,” Kyle Parry
- “Digital Historiography and Performance,” Sarah Bay-Cheng

Week 15 – 12/14-12/-18 (Finals Week)

- Paper/project due