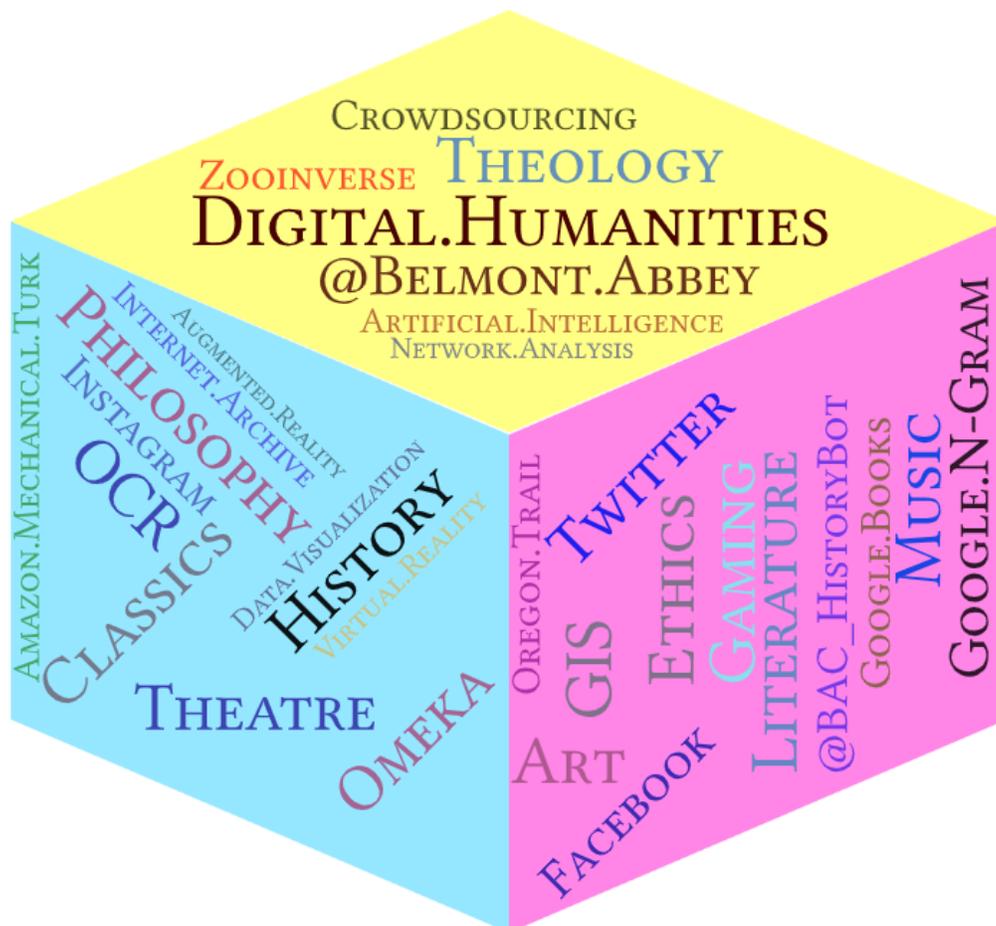


## DH300/HI300 – Introduction to the Digital Humanities

Fall 2021

Course Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00-2:15

Course Meeting Location: St. Leo 301



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Hutchinson

Office: Room 308C, Robert Stowe Hall

Office Hours: Monday 11:00-2:00 & Tue/Thr 2:30-4:30,  
or by appointment (in-person or Zoom)

To schedule an appointment: <https://hutchinson.appointlet.com/>

Office Phone: 704-461-5019

Email address: [danielhutchinson@bac.edu](mailto:danielhutchinson@bac.edu)

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course readings will be posted on the Canvas course page.

Access to a computer, preferably to a laptop.

*Recommended:* Access to a smartphone.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the Digital Humanities (DH), or the integration of digital methods in the disciplines of history, literature, theology, philosophy, theatre, art, and the classics. The purpose of this method is to study these disciplines in innovative ways, and to reach broad audiences beyond the classroom. In this course students will survey the practices, methods, and philosophies of the Digital Humanities, and participate in creating DH projects. Previous coursework in computer science is not required.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- For students to gain a familiarity with the major methods, tools, and philosophies of the Digital Humanities.
- To facilitate discussion and engagement on the moral and ethical uses of digital technology in contemporary society.
- For students to develop a potential DH project for the completion of the DH minor.
- To fulfill the [educational mission](#) of Belmont Abbey College: to enable students to "lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others."

**COURSE POLICIES:**

Substantial alterations to typical course policies have been made in response to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Future adjustments may be required over the course of the semester in response to unfolding events. Please know the instructor will attempt to work with you to ensure both your health and your academic success. Regardless of these altered circumstances, success in this class requires your participation and engagement.

**Class Format - In-Person:** While much of the class content is available online, the format of this class is **in-person**. Regular attendance and in-class participation are crucial for success.

**COVID-19 Protocols:** For the duration of the semester, all participants in the class will adhere to the current COVID-19 safety protocols set by the college. Thus, if the college is mandating mask wearing in classrooms, all students are expected to wear masks, and wear masks correctly. We will likewise adapt to changing conditions as circumstances warrant. The instructor understands the challenges these protocols represent. Nonetheless, following these protocols will contribute to the safety of the larger BAC community, as well as your own personal safety.

**Belmont Abbey College Attendance Policy:** While measuring attendance and regular class participation remains important, obviously the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic require flexibility and imagination. When conditions are optimal, you are expected to regularly participate in class sessions. However, the present circumstances have enormously complicated the dynamics of every facet of life. If you believe you will be absent for a future class, **please alert the instructor so proper arrangements can be made**. Prolonged absences from class sessions or failure to turn in assignments (three

consecutive absences/missed assignments; more than four total absences/missed assignments) will result in communication from the instructor, and if continued, penalties to the student's final grade.

In addition to the present circumstances, excused absences also include: recovery from vaccinations, deaths or serious illness in the family, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official college activities. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Reading:** This course is a reading intensive course. Students are expected to have read each assignment by the announced assigned time. Successful completion of most assignments will require engagement with these assigned texts.

**Politeness and decorum:** because the content of this course deals with controversial material, both the student and the instructor are expected to act in a **civil manner** when engaging in classroom discussion. In addition, students are asked to refrain from actions that distract others during class, including but not limited to: talking, sleeping, eating, and using cell phones. Students using laptops should also refrain from any activity that distracts others students. The usage of laptops in the classroom is a privilege, not a right.

**Classroom Technology Usage:** Given the course subject matter, students are granted permission by the instructor to use laptops, tablets, smart phones and other devices during certain moments of the class period, and only for in-class activities. Texting, web surfing, and other activities are harmful for your grade, and often distract those around you. Your class participation grade will suffer significantly if misuse of technology becomes a recurrent problem.

#### **GRADING/EVALUATION:**

The course grade is composed of the following components and based on the following scale:

- **Case Study Presentations & Discussion Boards** – 30% of course grade
- **Reading Annotations:** 20% of course grade
- **DH Lab Assignments** – 20% of course grade
- **Major Project – BAC\_HistoryBot Project** – 20% of course grade
- **DH Project Proposal – December 11** - 10% of course grade
- **Extra Credit Opportunities** – up to 5% of course grade

#### **Grading Scale**

**A : 100-92**

**A- : 91-90**

**B+ : 89-88**

**B : 87-82**

**B- : 81-80**

**C+ : 79-78**

**C : 77-72**

**C- : 71-70**

**D+ : 69-68**

**D : 67-62**

**D- : 61-60**

**F: 60<**

**Class Participation & Canvas Discussion Boards:** Throughout the semester students will be assigned readings, websites, and DH projects to explore and analyze. This analysis will be shared with the class in the form of discussion boards set up on Canvas. Students will post an initial 250-1000-word commentary on their assigned item, and will then post two additional comments, each 50-200 words in length, to other student postings. Students should use their postings as inspiration for live classroom discussions.

**Reading Annotations:** Throughout the semester students will collectively analyze and annotate readings related to course topics. Students will use the Hypothesis app to read and annotate these documents. Each set of annotations should equal some 250-500 words worth of commentary, and post two comments on other students' annotations. These annotations should spark conversation for in-class discussions.

**DH Lab Assignments:** Over the course of the semester students will complete guided lab assignments online in Canvas, often during class. These labs are designed to instruct students on how to use the digital tools commonly employed within the DH discipline. Completion of these labs are mandatory in order to participate in the major projects.

**Major Project: BAC\_HistoryBot Project:** The second major course project is the BAC\_HistoryBot, an automated Twitter account that regularly posts historic images of Belmont Abbey. This project will build on an archive of historical images drawn from digitized copies of BAC yearbooks, newspapers, and other materials. This archive will then be used as the data source for an automated Twitter "bot" which will randomly post these images, bringing our college's history to (hopefully) a broad audience. Working together in teams, students will create, organize, caption, and design new entries for the BAC\_HistoryBot, as well as creating media to promote the project.

**DH Project Proposal & Presentation:** Based on the techniques and tools examined over the course of the semester, students will create a five to ten-page proposal for their own DH project, along with a basic prototype of the project. In the proposal students will identify a project topic, source data, digital tools needed for the project, and explain how their approach fits within their respective humanities discipline. Students will create a basic prototype of their project, using the skills they have developed over the course of the semester. Students will then complete a ten-minute presentation explaining their proposal to the class.

### **Academic Dishonesty & Belmont Abbey College Policy:**

In accordance with the moral and academic standards of Belmont Abbey College, academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism (the appropriation of passages from the writing of another as one's own), collusion (improper collaboration with another in preparation of notes, term papers, or other written work), cheating (giving or receiving, offering or soliciting information, or using illicit material in an examination or quiz), or fabrication of sources used in a paper and included in its bibliography. It also includes appropriating another's ideas, theories, or interpretation as one's own without proper attribution. Stern disciplinary action will be

taken against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty, with penalties ranging from a failing grade for a course assignment or a failing grade for the course.

### **Services For Students With Special Learning Needs:**

Should academic or testing accommodations be necessary for any student with a disability, the student should notify each of their instructors within the first two weeks of classes or as soon after an initial verification of the disability is possible.

Accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis. Students must file proper documentation of the disability with Linda Tennant, the Director of Academic Assistance, located on the lower level of the Abbot Vincent Taylor Library. Linda Tennant can be reached by phone at 704-461-6776.

### **SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice. All changes will be announced, either in class or via the course website.

### **COURSE CONTENT AND OUTLINE:**

This is a general outline that is subject to change.

08/17 Syllabus & Introductions

08/19 What are the digital humanities?

### **UNIT 1: BUILDING, ANALYZING, AND VISUALISING VIA THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

08/24 Case Studies: Digital Archives

08/26 DH Lab 1: Making Humanities Digital (Optical Character Recognition & Web Scraping)

08/31 Case Studies: Crowdsourcing

09/02 DH Lab 2: Mississippi Reconstruction Governors Project

09/07 Case Studies: Digital Mapping

09/09 DH Lab 3: Mapping the American Homefront (Geocoding & Digital Map Making)

09/14 Case Studies: Data Analysis & Visualization

09/16 DH Lab 4: Visualization

### **UNIT 2: DIGITAL HUMANITIES IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE**

09/21 Effective Communication via Social Media

09/23 Case Studies: Social Media & Public Digital Humanities

09/28 Major Project: BAC\_HistoryBot

09/30 Major Project: BAC\_HistoryBot

10/05 Major Project: BAC\_HistoryBot

10/07 **\*\*\* NO CLASS \*\*\***

10/12 After-Action Reports: BAC\_HistoryBot

10/15 **\*\*\* NO CLASS – FALL BREAK \*\*\***

10/19 Case Studies: Gaming and Digital Humanities

10/21 DH Lab 5: Make a mini-game (with Twine)

10/26 Case Studies: Podcasting and the Digital Humanities

10/28 DH Lab 6: Make a mini-podcast (with Audacity)

11/02 Case Studies: Video Creation & Editing

11/04 DH Lab 7: Make a mini-video (with Openshop Video Editor)

### **UNIT 3: NEW FRONTIERS IN THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

11/09 Case Studies: Virtual and Augmented Realities

11/11 Film Screening: *AlphaGo*

11/16 Case Studies: Artificial Intelligence and DH

11/18 Debate: The Ethics of AI and DH

11/23 DH Lab 8: AI Art Show

11/26 **\*\*\* THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS – NO CLASS \*\*\***

11/30 DH Project Proposal Presentations

12/02 DH Project Proposal Presentations

12/07 **\*\*\* DH Project Proposals Due - 12:00PM \*\*\***