Thinking Digitally as a Humanities Scholar

Spring Graduate Course 16:560:691 (3 credits) AB #5050
Taught by: Dr. Laura K. Morreale, Associate in the Department of History, Harvard University
Meets Fridays 230pm-530pm. These dates only: 1/25, 2/8, 2/15, 3/1, 3/29, 4/5, 4/26

The goals of this mini-seminar are to re-situate humanities scholars in the DH ecosystem, to reaffirm their skills as fundamental to any computer-enabled humanities undertaking, and to provide students digitally-oriented options and approaches to their scholarly work (aka, "thinking digitally"). This class posits that the subject-expert's role in collaborative digital initiatives always advances in partnership with information scientists and academic technologists. Any successful DH project will require the expertise of all these workers, and it is, above all, the ability of the humanities researcher to think digitally and work co-operatively with librarians and technology specialists that promotes profitable and effective DH work.

All seminar participants will take part in a unified class project to facilitate hands-on familiarity with digital methodologies and workflows. Since our project will explore text located in the Rare Books and Special Collections division of the Rutgers library, students will consider a source digitally that they will also consult materially. Access to both the material and digital forms of our target source will invite students to think critically about what can and cannot be achieved with digital methods and encourage them to wield digital tools effectively in future scholarly efforts.

More information at: http://italian.rutgers.edu/
Autobiography – The Art of Self Fashion
Spring Graduate Course 16:560:650 (3 credits)
Taught by: Professor Alessandro Vettori

Autobiography knows no historical barriers, geographical limits, or social/educational background and has variable degrees of esthetic value. Since it defines itself as “self-fashioning,” the search for factual accuracy is amply superseded by the literary element that allows authors to offer a partial, personal perspective one can call fictional. This course will address the specificity of Italian life-fashioning texts, but will start from Augustine’s *Confessions*, the model for all autobiographical writing in the western tradition, and will make frequent references to Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s *Confessions*. Its focus will be on theoretical paradigms of the genre more than on the particularities of single texts or historical periods, with the understanding that patterns and parameters are shared throughout time and space, and that confession as a cultural/literary mechanism pervades the panorama of self-writing. Besides a longer academic paper, a short, experimental, creative written exercise on individual autobiography will be assigned. Taught in English.

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