

Reading and Preparation Guide

ENGL-GA.2971 Practicum in Digital Humanities – Fall, 2013

Prof. Marion Thain (English Department) and Prof. Deena Engel (Department of Computer Science), New York University

Week	Topics in Literature and Archives	Topics in Technology
Week 1 (9 th September)	<p>Please come having thought about the following questions so we can start the course by establishing a broader perspective on the activities we will undertake (this is a level of self-reflection I hope we will maintain throughout the course). Your answers to these questions will form the basis for our initial discussion so be prepared to present and debate your ideas:</p> <p>1) come with as many answers as possible to the basic question: why digitise texts? 2) what should our priorities be in thinking which texts to digitise? Again, come with a list. 3) in relation to a preservation and access agenda: which kinds of literary texts do you think might be most at risk of being lost to us or inaccessible if not digitised? 4) come with as many answers as possible to the basic question: what might be the consequences of digitising texts?</p>	<p><u>Web Development & Design Foundations with HTML5</u> Chapter 1.8 – Markup Languages (Note – the rest of Chapter 1 provides a good overview) Chapter 2 – HTML Basics Chapter 3 – Configuring Color and Text with CSS</p>
Week 2	<p>Reading: <i>Electronic Scholarly Editions</i> by Kenneth M. Price from <u>A Companion to Digital Literary Studies</u>, Chapter 24</p>	<p><u>Web Development & Design Foundations with HTML5</u> Chapter 4 – Visual Elements and Graphics Chapter 5 – Web Design: 5.5, 5.6 (Note – The rest of chapter 5 might prove to be a useful overview for larger sites.) Chapter 8 – Tables – 8.1, 8.2, 8.5</p>
Week 3	<p>At this session you will be presenting key findings from assignment #1 to the group in a 10-minute oral presentation.</p>	<p><u>Web Development & Design Foundations with HTML5</u> Chapter 6 – Page Layout – 6.1, 6.3, 6.10, 6.11</p>
Week 4	<p>There will be a scanned chapter of <i>Oscar Wilde's Decorated Books</i> (by Nicholas Frankel) made available for you to read for this session [unfortunately the Bobst copy is lost so I am waiting for an ILL copy to come through]. This will provide the basis for a discussion of the significance of the materiality of the text to its interpretation; from this we will consider</p>	<p><u>Web Development & Design Foundations with HTML5</u> Chapter 10 – Web Development – 10.1, 10.2</p>

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	the possibilities and priorities for metadata.	
Week 5	You will need to come to this session with a proposed list of primary source materials you will be using for Project #2, and a thorough rationale for your choices including thoughts on the textual, critical/historical and technical significance of your selection.	<i>Resource Readings on working with images will be provided.</i>
Weeks 6 and 7:	The sessions in these weeks will concentrate on the technology you need to build the archive, so there is no specific preparation set for literary considerations, but throughout you will be encouraged to think about how the decisions you make in using the technology to build a site are also interpretative decisions which effect how the text you are presenting will, and can be, read.	WordPress installation instructions will be provided. WordPress for Beginners - http://codex.wordpress.org/Getting_Started_with_WordPress
Week 8:	Reading: <i>Designing Sustainable Projects and Publications</i> by Daniel V. Pitti from <u>A Companion to Digital Humanities</u> , Chapter 31	<i>Additional WordPress readings and resources will be posted.</i>
Week 9:	There is no specific preparation for the literature and archive topics of this week but again we will think throughout about how the decisions made in encoding the textual examples might also be considered interpretative gestures.	
Week 10:	Reading: <i>The Text Encoding Initiative and the Study of Literature</i> by James Cummings from <u>A Companion to Digital Literary Studies</u> , Chapter 25.	<u>XML in a Nutshell</u> Chapters 1, 6, 7 TEI's <i>Gentle Introduction to XML</i> http://www.tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/SG.html
Week 11:	We will use two pairs of poems in this session (which I will give you at the end of the session in Week 10) to use as the basis for two TEI encoding exercises. Your preparatory task will be to think about how to TEI encoding might be used to reflect and convey significant structure and contextual information about the poems, but also how it might be used to both develop and communicate more complex interpretative gestures. (I will provide a scan of a	TEI Resources will be posted. http://www.tei-c.org/index.xml

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	chapter written about one of these groups of poems to help you think about the kinds of interpretative and critical issues you want to work with through the encoding.) We will work through these examples as a group in class.	
Week 12:	Continuation of work on the poem examples and/or review of the course.	
Week 13:	Review week and/or Final Presentations	
Week 14:	Final Presentations	