JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY

COURSE CODE: **"EN 388"**
COURSE NAME: **"Literature and Digital Humanities: Creating the Frankenstein Project"**
SEMESTER & YEAR: **Fall 2023**

SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Alessandra Grego
EMAIL: agrego@johncabot.edu
HOURS: TTH 3:00 PM 4:15 PM
TOTAL NO. OF CONTACT HOURS: 45
CREDITS: 3
PREREQUISITES: Prerequisite: EN 110 with a grade of C or above. In addition, students must have completed one other English literature class or have Junior standing.
OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course serves as an introduction to the growing field and practice of digital humanities in literature, with a focus on the transformative role of digital technologies in how we experience the stories of humankind – and, in turn, the important role of language arts in humanizing technology. It provides history and context for the emergence of a field as wide-reaching as it is vibrant, incorporating inter- and multi-disciplinary study, and ranging from the theoretically and technologically complex to easily accessible forms of narrative incorporating everyday digital interactions. Within this setting, students will contribute to and learn about what is involved in publishing their own text-based digital humanities collaboration, using open source production methods to create a class show case project.This is a reading and writing intensive course. Students in 300-level literature classes are required to produce 5-6,000 words of critical writing.

SUMMARY OF COURSE CONTENT:

In this course students will experiment with various digital tools to take apart - or hack - Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. "The digital humanities has made hacking a discipline. "Hacking" these days means to adapt, manipulate, and make productive use out of a given technology or technological context or platform" (Fyfe 3). Students will be encouraged to approach the text in new ways, through distant reading, through databases, by exploring existing digital projects, creating maps and analysing sentiments. We will experiment with text annotation and build a hypertext to help us obeserve the novel as it is woven out of multiple narrative strands drawn from other fictional texts, from poetry, from history, from science, from philosophy, from mythology. Finally we will build a map of the influence of *Frankenstein* on successive literature, film, figurative art, music, and beyond. The various experiments with digital tools built by the students in this class will be curated in a digital exhibition built in Omeka.

Paul Fyfe, "Digital Humanities Unplugged," Digital Humanities Quarterly 5, no. 3 (2011),
http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/5/3/000106/000106.html.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will learn how to use digital tools to interrogate a fictional text.

They will exit the course with

- Advanced close reading and critical skills

- in depth knowledge of Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein,* its literary influences, context, and impact and of the critical skills required for the study of fiction.

- a theoretical understanding of the uses and challenges of a digital approach to literature and humanities

- the ability to employ digital tools for literary research (e.g. textual annotation, mapping, database construction, metadata description)

- the skills to critically assess and evaluate the results of the research performed and write a shareable report of the findings.

- the experience of curating a digital exhibition of findings produced by the class

TEXTBOOK:

Book Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN number	Library Call Number	Comments	Format	Local Bookstore	Online Purchase
Frankenstein 200: The Birth, Life, and Resurrection of Mary Shelley's Monster	Baumann, Rebecca, and Jody Mitchell.	Indiana University Press, 2018	978-0-253-03908-8	ebook available through Frohring Library	JSTOR, https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt22p7j32.	Ebook		
Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus	Mary Shelley	W W Norton & Co Inc; 3rd edition 2021	978-0393644029				Almost Corner Bookshop	
Introduction to Digital Humanities : Enhancing Scholarship with the Use of Technology	Wymer, Kathryn C.	Routledge, 2021.	9781000396881	ebook available through Frohring Library		Ebook		
The Digital Humanities and Literary Studies.	Eve, Martin Paul.	Oxford University Press, 2022.	978–0–19–885048–9			Ebook		
Text Technologies : A History.	Elaine Treharne, and Claude Willan.	Stanford University Press, 2019.	9781503604513.		Ebook available from the Frohring Library	Ebook		

REQUIRED RESERVED READING:

NONE

RECOMMENDED RESERVED READING:

NONE

GRADING POLICY
-ASSESSMENT METHODS:

Assignment	Guidelines	Weight
1st Home Paper	Traditional Research Paper on 'Frankenstein' - 2500 words	25%
2nd home paper	Resarch Findings report on the digital humanities project on 'Frankenstein'	25%
Omeka exhibition	Curation of digital exhibition of findings.	25%
Focused exercises	Weekly forums and exercises on the uses of specific tools	25%

-ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:
A Work of this quality directly addresses the question or problem raised and provides a coherent argument displaying an extensive knowledge of relevant information or content. This type of work demonstrates the ability to critically evaluate concepts and theory and has an element of novelty and originality. There is clear evidence of a significant amount of reading beyond that required for the course.
B This is highly competent level of performance and directly addresses the question or problem raised. There is a demonstration of some ability to critically evaluate theory and concepts and relate them to practice. Discussions reflect the student's own arguments and are not simply a repetition of standard lecture and reference material. The work does not suffer from any major errors or omissions and provides evidence of reading beyond the required assignments.
C This is an acceptable level of performance and provides answers that are clear but limited, reflecting the information offered in the lectures and reference readings.
D This level of performances demonstrates that the student lacks a coherent grasp of the material. Important information is omitted and irrelevant points included. In effect, the student has barely done enough to persuade the instructor that s/he should not fail.
F This work fails to show any knowledge or understanding of the issues raised in the question. Most of the material in the answer is irrelevant.

-ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND EXAMINATION POLICY

Students are allowed a total of four absences per term, whether they are excused or not, barring very serious emergencies. Students are asked NOT to provide justification and to take responsibility for attendance.

More than four absences, whether excused or not, will result in a grade drop (e.g. from A to A-) per absence.

You cannot make-up a major exam (midterm or final) without the permission of the Dean's Office. The Dean's Office will grant such permission only when the absence was caused by a serious impediment, such as a documented illness, hospitalization or death in the immediate family (in which you must attend the funeral) or other situations of similar gravity. **Absences due to other meaningful conflicts, such as job interviews, family celebrations, travel difficulties, student misunderstandings or personal convenience, will not be excused.** Students who will be absent from a major exam must notify the Dean's Office prior to that exam. Absences from class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally be excused. Individual students who will have to miss class to observe a religious holiday should notify the instructor by the end of the Add/Drop period to make prior arrangements for making up any work that will be missed. The final exam period runs until December 15, 2023.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
As stated in the university catalog, any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade on the work in which the dishonesty occurred. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty, irrespective of the weight of the assignment, may result in the student receiving a failing grade in the course. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A student who is reported twice for academic dishonesty is subject to summary dismissal from the University. In such a case, the Academic Council will then make a recommendation to the President, who will make the final decision.

STUDENTS WITH LEARNING OR OTHER DISABILITIES
John Cabot University does not discriminate on the basis of disability or handicap. Students with approved accommodations must inform their professors at the beginning of the term. Please see the website for the complete policy.

<div align="center">SCHEDULE</div>

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week 1	Introduction to the Course. Define digital humanities. Wymer, Kathryn C. "Reasons to Engage with Digital Humanities." chap. 1. Introduction to Digital Humanities : Enhancing Scholarship with the Use of Technology. Routledge, 2021. pp. 1-9. Start reading "Frankenstein."	
week 2	Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein': the text, the context, the influence. Mary Shelley. 'Frankenstein." Browse: http://romantic-circles.org/editions/frankenstein	
week 3	Modelling the gothic novel. Distant Reading. Moretti, Franco. "Graphs, Maps, Trees." in Graphs, Maps, Trees: Abstract Models for a Literary History. Verso, 2007. Chap. 1.	
week 4	Mapping the novel Tools: ArcGIS and Google mymaps	
week 5	The Romantic Literary context: Mary Shelley's contemporaries. Metadata description: Dublin Core	
week 6	Time lines, textual structure and characters Tools: Time Line JS. Cascade	1st home paper due
week 7	Creating a data base of images and figurative references. IIIF standards.	
week 8	Archetypes, Tropes, Monsters: collecting visual representations and builing an archive	
week 9	The Romantic Literary context: Mary Shelley's contemporaries.	
week 10	From Xcel to CSV to Omeka. Register to Omeka	
week 11	## Organization of findings: what was our question? Can we answer it? Data literacy: curation, metadata creation.	

w eek 12	Metadata description: Dublin Core. Object creation in Omeka	
w eek 13	Building a relational database of Frankenstein's antecedents, influences, and epigones	
w eek 14	Picking up all the threads.	2nd home paper: findings report.
Final exam: Omeka project completed.		