



ENG 613 (01W, 01E): Digital Humanities COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kelin Loe, Assistant Professor of English (she/her)

Office Location: Talbot 326

Office Hours: TBA

Office Phone: 903-886-5260 (Dept. of Literature & Languages)

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University Email Address: kelin.loe@etamu.edu

Communication Response Time: 1-4 days

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Meeting Information

Students enrolled in different sections must attend in the modality of that section.

Modality	Section	Course #	Meeting Time	Meeting Location
In Person	01E	84633	Wednesdays, 5-7:30pm	Talbot 326
Zoom or Asynch	01W	84634	Students in this section can Zoom in on Wednesdays or watch the recording later.	

Materials

For a full list of course readings, see Course Schedule.

Required & Optional Texts:

- **REQUIRED:** Mitchell, Melanie, *Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans*, Picador, 2025 (NOTE: the book was published originally in 2019, but you want the edition with the new preface that came out in 2025).
- **REQUIRED:** Hao, Karen, *Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI*, Penguin, 2025
- **REQUIRED:** Dubreuil, Laurent, *Humanities in the Time of AI*, University of Minnesota Press, 2025.
- **REQUIRED:** HarvardX CS50: Introduction to Computer Science (Harvard Extension program course, free during Fall 2026)
- **OPTIONAL:** Weatherby, Leif, *Language Machines: Cultural AI and the End of Remainder Humanism*,

University of Minnesota Press, 2025

- OPTIONAL: Li, Xiaochang, *Divination Engines: Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence, and the Making of Algorithmic Culture*, University of Chicago Press, 2026
- OPTIONAL: De Freitas et al, *Learning Under Algorithmic Conditions*, University of Minnesota Press, 2026

Required Technology: Students must have consistent and stable internet access and be able to create documents and PDFs through Microsoft Word. Students are expected to use and regularly check their student email accounts (xxx@leomail.tamuc.edu).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Description: A study of theories and methods relating to the use of computational and digital tools to pursue questions of research and teaching in the humanities. The course will explore the ways in which technologies are complex, socially situated, and political tools through which humans act and make meaning. May be repeated for credit when the emphasis changes. This is an approved doctoral research tools course.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

Through readings, discussions, and applied writing exercises and projects, students will:

1. Develop a (hopefully resilient!) **practice of computational/digital experimentation**;
2. Through that experimentation, **work toward basic literacy in computer science**;
3. Through that literacy, **understand the materiality of generative artificial intelligence**;
4. **Explore** how the materiality of generative AI is woven through
 - contemporary conversations about **literacy education and the humanities**, and
 - current and historical **political and economic ideologies and realities**;
5. **Develop a personalized line of inquiry for a topic** in generative AI or related digital or computational phenomena;
6. **Combine theory and practice to develop an argument** within the above topic.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed: Students should be able to navigate D2L, Zoom, their Leomail email accounts, use Microsoft Word, and be able to create PDFs. (Using their own word processing software is fine so long as the student can export documents as .docx (Microsoft Word) or as PDFs.

Instructional Methods

- seminar (in-course meeting: discussion, small and large group); after-course meeting: discussion boards)
- informal responses as course meeting preparation (D2L assignments and discussions)
- scaffolded writing exercises as skills development and assessment (D2L assignments)
- peer response (in course meeting: one-on-one; after course meeting (correspondence with assigned partner)

GRADING & ASSESSMENT

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Course Project	Description <i>More detailed assignment sheets will be distributed.</i>	Due	Weight	SLO Measurement
Attendance	Students attend the live Zoom meeting and participate via the microphone, camera, or chat. OR, students watch the recorded meeting and prepare 1-3 Attendance Slides sharing their sparks, questions, responses, and/or shoutouts.	Attendance Slides are due the Wednesdays (11:59pm) before the next Wednesday class meeting.	10%	1-6
Training Proof	Proof of completion of assignments related to computer science/AI trainings.	Wednesdays (11:59pm)	20%	1-3
Weekly Meeting Work	Students will choose between PRE- or POST-Meeting work each week. PRE-Meeting work will focus on creating informal and academic summary and synthesis of texts. These will be turned in on slides that will be featured in that week's class meeting. Our POST-Meeting work will focus on summarizing the course meeting, taking meaningful notes, and building resources from conversations that can be used later in the semester. Small, informal exercises that pop-up throughout the semester will also be counted in this category.	Wednesdays (11:59pm) PRE Work: BEFORE the associated class meeting POST Work: AFTER the associated class meeting	30%	1-6
Meeting Work in Totality	Meeting Work is made up of different kinds of activities. By the end of the semester, students should have completed a specific minimum and/or maximum of certain Meeting Work activities.	End of Semester	10%	1-6
Presentations	Informal, 5min presentation on the perspective of your selected book and what it can bring to our conversations.	11/18 for 01W; 11/19 for 01E	5%	4, 5, 6
Book Review	5-7-page review of a book on AI from an academic discipline in the humanities published in 2025 or 2026.	12/2, 11:59pm	10%	4, 5, 6
FINAL: Argumentative Essay	A reflection paper that connects questions to theory and practice.	Thursday, 12/10, 11:59pm	15%	1-6

POLICIES

Scoring

All assignments are worth 1 point. If there are multiple assignments per a category above, those assignments in totality receive the stated weight. If there is only one assignment in the category, it receives the full weight (meaning, in final grade calculations, it is equal to its weight). All coursework will be scored as follows:

90-100%	Full Credit: meet all or nearly all grading requirements.
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70-89%	Accept with Revisions: has taken on the spirit of the assignment but may be missing elements. If the student revises as specified by Dr. Loe within a week, they will receive full credit.
50-69%	Revise & Resubmit: substantial parts of the assignment are missing, or the spirit of the assignment has been missed.
0	Missing: most of the assignment is incomplete, or the assignment was not turned in.

Revisions

All work that is turned in on time (or by extension date) is eligible for revision. Revisions suggested by Dr. Loe should be made by the week following the delivery of feedback. Extension requests are welcome for Revisions. If the revision is somehow worse than the original, the original score will be preserved (this has never happened—but I include the statement to protect good-faith accidents in revision!).

Due Dates

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are **due the night before the class meeting by 11:59pm**. There is a grace period before 8am the day of the course meeting.

Late Work

No late work (without prior requested extension) will be accepted.

Extensions

Anyone can request an extension for any reason. Extensions should be requested 24 hours before the deadline via email. You don't need to share a reason, just ask. If I don't respond right away, know that you have an extension beyond the deadline, and when I respond, I'll share the extended deadline.

Attendance

If a student is not present during the class meeting, the student is responsible for watching the recorded lecture in its entirety. For asynchronous students (or students who miss the synchronous meeting), attendance will be counted by reference to their Attendance Slides in the following week's powerpoint.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

Course Work & Meeting Schedule

W	Meeting Date	Project Due
1	8/20	No Meeting (Semester begins on Thursday)
2	8/27	Week 1 Attendance Slides Week 2 PRE-Meeting Activities Introduction Slides
3	9/3	Week 2 Attendance Slides Week 3 PRE-Meeting Activities CS50x's Problem Set 0
4	9/10	Week 3 Attendance Slides Week 4 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 3 POST-Meeting Activities

5	9/17	Week 4 Attendance Slides Week 5 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 4 POST-Meeting Activities CS50x's Problem Set 1
6	9/24	Week 5 Attendance Slides Week 6 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 5 POST-Meeting Activities
7	10/1	Week 6 Attendance Slides Week 7 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 6 POST-Meeting Activities CS50x's Problem Set 2
8	10/8	No Class – Fall Break
9	10/15	Week 7 Attendance Slides Week 9 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 7 POST-Meeting Activities CS50x's Problem Set 3
10	10/22	Week 9 Attendance Slides Week10 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 9 POST-Meeting Activities CS50x's Problem Set 4
11	10/29	Week 10 Attendance Slides Week 11 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 10 POST-Meeting Activities Outside Reading Presentations: Group A
12	11/5	Week 11 Attendance Slides Week 10 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 11 POST-Meeting Activities Outside Reading Presentations: Group B
13	11/12	Week 12 Attendance Slides Week 13 PRE-Meeting Activities Week 12 POST-Meeting Activities Outside Reading Presentations: Group C
14	11/19	Presentation Week 13 Attendance Slides Week 13 POST-Meeting Activities CS50x's Problem Sets 5-7
15	11/26	No Class – Thanksgiving Break
16	12/3	Week 14 Attendance Slides Week 13 POST-Meeting Activities
17	12/10	FINAL DUE, 11:59pm

Reading Schedule

Week 2			
Sheils, Merrill	Why Johnny Can't Write	News Week	1975
Baron, Dennis	From Pencils to Pixels: The Stages of Literacy Technologies	Passions, Pedagogies, and 21st Century Technologies	1999

Hao, Karen	Prologue	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Dubreuil, Laurent	2. Perspectives and Disciplines	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Malan, David (and others)	Week 0 - Scratch	Harvard Ex CS50	2026
Sheils, Merrill	Why Johnny Can't Write	News Week	1975
Week 3			
Trimbur, John	Literacy and the Discourse of Crisis	The Politics of Writing Instruction: Postsecondary	1991
Hao, Karen	Chapter 1: Divine Right	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Dubreuil, Laurent	3. AI Is Us	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Week 4			
Lewis, Lynn	The Trope of Crisis	Strategic Discourse: The Politics of (New) Literacy Crises	2015
Dretzin, Rachel	Digital Nation	Frontline, PBS	2010
Pigg, Stacey	Distracted by Digital Literacy: Unruly Bodies and the Schooling of Literacy	Strategic Discourse: The Politics of (New) Literacy Crises	2015
Malan, David (and others)	Week 1 - C	Harvard Ex CS51	2026
Dubreuil, Laurent	4. We Are Not AI	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Week 5			
Dubreuil, Laurent	5. Naming the Human(ities)	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 2: A Civilizing Mission	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 3: Nerve Center	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 4: Dreams of Modernity	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 5: Scale of Ambition	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Horowitch, Rose	The Age of Reading Is Over	The Atlantic	August 2026
Wallace-Wells, David	Is This What a Post-Literate Era Looks Like?	NYTimes	July 2026
Week 6			
Dubreuil, Laurent	6. The Ongoing Reprogramming	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 6: Ascension	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 7: Science in Captivity	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025

Hao, Karen	Chapter 9: Disaster Capitalism	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 10: Gods and Demons	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 11: Apex	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 12: Plundered Earth	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 8: Dawn of Commerce	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 13: The Two Prophets	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 14: Deliverance	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Malan, David (and others)	Week 2 - Arrays	Harvard Ex CS52	2026
Week 7			
Dubreuil, Laurent	7. A Turing Intermezzo	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 15: The Gambit	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 16: Cloak-and-Dagger	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 17: Reckoning	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Chapter 18: A Formula for Empire	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Hao, Karen	Epilogue: How the Empire Falls	Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI	2025
Week 9			
Dubreuil, Laurent	8. The Oeuvre of the Humanities	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Dubreuil, Laurent	9. A Platonic Interlude	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Malan, David (and others)	Week 3 - Algorithms	Harvard Ex CS53	2026
Mitchell, Melanie	Prologue: Terrified	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	1. The roots of artificial intelligence	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	2. Neural networks and the ascent of machine learning	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	3. AI spring	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Dubreuil, Laurent	8. The Oeuvre of the Humanities	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Week 10			
Dubreuil, Laurent	10. The Ethical Fallacy	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025

Malan, David (and others)	Week 4 - Memory	Harvard Ex CS54	2026
Mitchell, Melanie	4. Who, what, when, where, why	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	5. ConvNets and ImageNet	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	6. A closer look at machines that learn	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	7. On trustworthy and ethical AI	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Week 11			
Dubreuil, Laurent	11. Descriptions and Interpretations	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Malan, David (and others)	Week 5 - Data Structure	Harvard Ex CS55	2026
Mitchell, Melanie	8. Rewards for robots	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	9. Game on	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	10. Beyond games	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Dubreuil, Laurent	11. Descriptions and Interpretations	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Week 12			
Dubreuil, Laurent	12. Corpus Expansions	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Malan, David (and others)	Week 6 - Python	Harvard Ex CS56	2026
Mitchell, Melanie	11. Words, and the company they keep	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	12. Translation as encoding and decoding	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	13. Ask me anything	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Week 13			
Dubreuil, Laurent	13. Dilettantes and Technicians	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Malan, David (and others)	Week 7 - SQL	Harvard Ex CS57	2026
Mitchell, Melanie	14. On understanding	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	15. Knowledge, abstraction, and analogy in artificial intelligence	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Mitchell, Melanie	16. Questions, answers, and speculations.	Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans	2025
Week 14			
Dubreuil, Laurent	14. Subjects and Persons	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025

Dubreuil, Laurent	15. An Opening	Humanities in the Time of AI	2025
Week 15			
Malan, David (and others)	Artificial Intelligence	Harvard Ex CS58	2026
Malan, David (and others)	Artificial Intelligence	Harvard Ex CS58	2026

TECHNOLOGY NOTES

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

Learn more about the LMS Requirements here: <https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

Learn more about LMS Browser Support here:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Learn about the Zoom Video Conferencing Tool:

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Access And Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication With Your Instructor

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your "myLeo" mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The [Code of Student Conduct](#) is described in detail online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following

procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University

campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

