Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History

The minor in Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History introduces students to computer programming and the use of cutting-edge software tools for representing, exploring, analyzing, and publishing the products of human language and culture. These products range from everyday speech and writing to historical documents and literary texts, and they encompass music and art as well as mundane objects, places, and institutions. The courses in this minor will help students not just to understand and use digital tools but to see digital computing as a cultural activity in its own right—an activity to be studied with respect to its historical development, social setting, cultural impact, and aesthetic qualities, as well as the ethical problems it creates in our increasingly digitized and networked world. This minor does not require a background in mathematics or computing but is designed for students who are majoring in the humanities or humanistic social sciences. It will also be of interest to students majoring in the sciences who want to acquire programming skills in the context of linguistic, cultural, and historical studies.

Minor in Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History

Students must take seven courses to complete the minor in Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History. They break down as follows:

1. One course in computer programming. Students are encouraged to take DIGS 20001 Introduction to Computer Programming, but the following are acceptable substitutes: CMSC 12100 Computer Science with Applications I, CMSC 15100 Intro To Computer Science-1, CMSC 16100 Honors Introduction to Computer Science I.

2. One course in statistics. Students are encouraged to take DIGS 20002 Basic Mathematics and Statistics for Digital Studies, but the following are acceptable substitutes: STAT 20000 Elementary Statistics, STAT 22000 Statistical Methods and Applications.

3. One course in data analysis using the R programming environment: DIGS 20004 Data Analysis for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research. This course has the prerequisite of DIGS 20001 and DIGS 20002 (or equivalent courses in computer programming and statistics).

4. Two courses chosen from the following three courses. Note that each of these has as a prerequisite of DIGS 20001 (or an equivalent introduction to computer programming):
   - DIGS 20003 Data Management for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research
   - DIGS 20005 Data Publication for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research
   - DIGS 20006 Natural Language Processing

5. A required seminar course: DIGS 20007 Issues in Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History

6. One elective course approved by the faculty director of the Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History program. This will normally be a course in the humanities or social sciences that entails computational methods or explores the history and cultural significance of digital media or of computation in general. Suitable courses are offered in several different departments and programs.

Note that the particular courses on offer will vary from year to year and some courses may have prerequisites. Examples of potentially suitable courses include:

CMST 25204 Media Ecology: Embodiment & Software
CMST 27110 Digital Cinema
CMST 27815 Introduction to Art, Technology, and Media
CMST 27920 Virtual Reality Production
ENGL 25980 Technorelations: Intimacy, Bodies, Machines
ENGL 25990 Always Already New - Printed Books & Electronic Texts
GEOG 20500 Introduction to Spatial Data Science
GEOG 28201 Intro to Geographic Information Systems
HIPS 25205 Computers, Minds, Intelligence & Data
HIST 25415 History of Information
HIST 25425 Censorship, Info Control, & Revolutions in Info Technology from the Printing Press to the Internet
HIST 29523 Data History: Information Overload from the Enlightenment to Google
LING 28600 Computational Linguistics
MUSI 26618 Electronic Music I

Summary of Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIGS 20001 or CMSC 12100 or CMSC 15100 or CMSC 16100</td>
<td>Introduction to Computer Programming</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIGS 20002</td>
<td>Basic Mathematics and Statistics for Digital Studies</td>
<td>100</td>
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or STAT 20000  Elementary Statistics  
or STAT 22000  Statistical Methods and Applications  
DIDS 20004  Data Analysis for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research  100  
Two of the following three courses:  200  
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIDS 20003</td>
<td>Data Management for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIDS 20005</td>
<td>Data Publication for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIDS 20006</td>
<td>Natural Language Processing</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIDS 20007</td>
<td>Issues in Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>One elective, approved by the faculty director</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Total Units</td>
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<td>700</td>
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Advising and Grading

Courses in the minor may not be double counted with the student's major(s), other minors, or general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Students who elect the minor must meet with the program director before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. The director's approval for the minor program should be submitted to a student's College adviser by the deadline above using a form available from the adviser.

Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History Courses

**DIDS 20001. Introduction to Computer Programming. 100 Units.**
In this course, students will learn computer programming and computational concepts using the Python programming language. No prior background in computing is required. This course, or an equivalent introductory Computer Science course (CMSC 12100, 15100, or 16100), is a prerequisite for the other Digital Studies (DIDS) courses, with the exception of DIDS 20002/30002. This course is tailored for students in the humanities. DIDS 20001/30001 is offered every Spring and is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at the University, with priority given to those pursuing an undergraduate minor or BA/MA in Digital Studies. Note: Students in the Digital Studies MA program will not enroll in this course but will instead complete a three-week programming "boot camp" in September, prior to the beginning of the Autumn Quarter. DIDS MA students may be exempted from this course requirement if they can demonstrate sufficient knowledge of computer programming, which will be determined in consultation with the faculty director of Digital Studies.

Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): DIDS 30001

**DIDS 20002. Basic Mathematics and Statistics for Digital Studies. 100 Units.**
This course covers selected topics in mathematics which are relevant for computing and for the subsequent Digital Studies courses, and it provides an introduction to statistics with emphasis on the analysis of linguistic, cultural, and historical data. Comprehension of these topics is reinforced by the Python programming exercises in DIDS 20001/30001; thus it is recommended that DIDS 20001/30001 and DIDS 20002/30002 be taken in the same quarter, if possible. No prior background in mathematics beyond the high school level is required for this course. For students who are, or who have been, University of Chicago undergraduates, STAT 22000 may be substituted for this course. Other prior courses in statistics may also be accepted in lieu of this course, subject to the approval of the faculty director of the Digital Studies program. This course (or an equivalent Statistics course) is a prerequisite for DIDS 20004/30004 and DIDS 20006/30006. This course is offered in Summer Quarter 2018 and thereafter will be offered in both Spring and Summer Quarters each year.

Terms Offered: Spring Summer
Equivalent Course(s): DIDS 30002

**DIDS 20003. Data Management for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research. 100 Units.**
This course introduces students to concepts and techniques related to the representation and management of digital data, with emphasis on the forms of data encountered in linguistic, cultural, and historical research. The following topics are covered: (1) digital character encoding using the ASCII and Unicode standards and digital typefaces ("fonts") for displaying encoded characters; (2) the digital encoding of 2D images, 3D models, sound, and video; (3) database models and querying languages, both relational and non-relational, with attention to data-integration methods for combining and querying semi-structured and heterogeneous data; and (4) cartographic concepts (e.g., coordinate systems and map projections) and the basics of geospatial data management using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). DIDS 20001/30001, or an equivalent introduction to programming, is a prerequisite for this course. This course is offered in the Autumn.

Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): DIDS 20001/30001, or an equivalent introduction to programming
Equivalent Course(s): DIDS 30003
DIGS 20004. Data Analysis for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research. 100 Units.
This course builds on the introduction to statistics in DIGS 20002/30002 by introducing students to the R language and R packages for data analysis. Topics covered include the basics of data mining, data visualization, and high-performance computing (HPC) for analyzing large datasets. This course provides a high-level conceptual introduction to machine learning, social network analysis, and spatial data analysis. The goal is to make students familiar with these methods and aware of their role in linguistic, cultural, and historical studies, as a basis for further study of these methods. DIGS 20001/30001 and DIGS 20002/30002 (or their equivalents) are prerequisites for this course. This course is offered in the Autumn.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): DIGS 20001/30001 and DIGS 20002/30002 (or their equivalents)
Equivalent Course(s): DIGS 30004

DIGS 20005. Data Publication for Linguistic, Cultural, and Historical Research. 100 Units.
This course introduces software techniques and tools for building end-user-facing apps that run in Web browsers (via HTML5, CSS, and JavaScript). Students will learn how to use application programming interfaces (APIs) to integrate Web services into their apps, making use of the analysis, visualization, and database services provided by external systems. Attention will be paid to user-interface design for both research purposes and pedagogical purposes. Students will learn how to use GitHub to manage software development. DIGS 20001/30001, or an equivalent introduction to programming, is a prerequisite for this course. This course is offered in the Winter.
Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): DIGS 20001/30001, or an equivalent introduction to programming
Equivalent Course(s): DIGS 30005

DIGS 20006. Natural Language Processing. 100 Units.
This course introduces software techniques and tools for natural language processing (NLP). The following topics are covered: (1) textual markup and related software standards such as the Extensible Markup Language (XML), as well as the Text Encoding Initiative's XML tagging scheme; (2) character-string processing (with or without markup tags); and (3) NLP methods for part-of-speech tagging, lemmatization, morphological segmentation, sentence splitting, named entity recognition, co-reference resolution, sentiment analysis, and topic modeling. This course also provides a high-level conceptual overview of recent work in machine translation via neural networks and deep learning. DIGS 20001/30001 and DIGS 20002/30002 (or their equivalents) are prerequisites for this course. This course is offered in the Spring.
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): DIGS 20001/30001 and DIGS 20002/30002 (or their equivalents)
Equivalent Course(s): DIGS 30006

DIGS 20007. Issues in Digital Studies of Language, Culture, and History. 100 Units.
This is a discussion-oriented seminar that introduces students to theoretical debates in digital humanities, broadly defined, with attention to underlying philosophical issues. It touches upon the history and theory of digital computing within its social and institutional settings, as well as the history of the application of digital computing to texts, images, sound, geospatial data, and other information relevant to cultural and historical studies. Among other topics, this course introduces students to debates about the cultural impact of digital media and about ethical issues related to the ownership, accessibility, and legitimate uses of digital data.
Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): DIGS 20001/30001, or an equivalent introduction to programming
Equivalent Course(s): DIGS 30007
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

- Times was used instead of Trajan.
- Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.