


February 22, 2017

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees  
FROM: Jeremy Teitelbaum, Interim Provost   
RE: Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities and Media Studies

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities and Media Studies.

BACKGROUND:

The Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities and Media Studies (DHMS) will be unique insofar as it is fundamentally interdisciplinary in its epistemology: it will not be solely oriented, towards digital humanities methods, research, and practice, but also towards integrating media studies as an interdisciplinary and international field of critical inquiry and theory. These attributes will make the DHMS Graduate Certificate unique in the region and the country.

Importantly, the introduction of a Graduate Certificate will help to market our increasingly successful efforts to build digital humanities and media studies across campus, and thereby attract more highly qualified graduate students to departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Fine Arts.

There is a substantial external market justification for the new Certificate. The Certificate will enhance the positive features and success rates of our graduate students entering the academic job market, as digital humanities and media studies research and scholarship has proliferated across North American campuses at the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as internationally. There are employment opportunities for graduate students trained in digital humanities and media studies in higher education, non-governmental organizations, libraries, museums, and other public and corporate entities.

The Graduate Certificate in DHMS for graduate students enrolled in CLAS or SFA PhD or MA/MFA programs will require a total of twelve credits: 3 credits in one of the core courses, two 3-credit electives from the approved list, and one 3-credit independent study, working on the DHMS Portfolio.

# Request for New UConn Certificate Program

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## Program information

Name of certificate program:	Digital Humanities and Media Studies
Name of sponsoring department:	Humanities Institute
Name of Department Head:	Michael Lynch, Director
Name of sponsoring College:	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Director of certificate program:	Anke Finger (Associate Professor, LCL; Assistant Director of Digital Humanities and Media Studies, UCHI)
Type of certificate:	Graduate, On-Campus
CIP Code:	24.0199
Anticipated start date:	Fall 2017
Anticipated date of first graduation:	May 2018
Projected annual enrollments:	10

## Program outline and description of program learning outcomes

Describe why this certificate program is needed and the target audience it is expected to serve.

A small number of such certificates exist at universities such as UCLA, Northeastern University and Texas A&M University. The UConn Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities and Media Studies (DHMS) will be unique insofar as it is fundamentally interdisciplinary in its epistemology: it will not be solely oriented, as certificate programs are at other schools, towards digital humanities methods, research, and practice, but also towards integrating media studies as an interdisciplinary and international field of critical inquiry and theory. These attributes will make the DHMS Graduate Certificate unique in the region, indeed the country, and enhance the prestige of the University of Connecticut as a research university.

Importantly, the introduction of a Graduate Certificate will help to market our increasingly successful efforts to build digital humanities and media studies across campus, and thereby attract more highly qualified graduate students to departments in CLAS and the School of Fine Arts.

There is a substantial external market justification for the new certificate. The Graduate Certificate in DHMS will enhance the positive features and success rates of our graduate students entering the academic job market, as digital humanities and media studies research and scholarship has proliferated across North American campuses at the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as internationally. In the month of October 2016, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* advertised 160 positions in higher education that included digital humanities or media studies as an area of specialty, in disciplines as diverse as communication, literary studies, the arts, history, philosophy, in fact, all major concentrations in the humanities, the social sciences and the arts. There are also ample employment opportunities for graduate students trained in digital humanities and media studies in non-governmental organizations, libraries, museums, and other public and corporate entities as digital humanities inquiries and practices are often closely linked to public humanities. For graduate students in the humanities, social sciences or the arts it has become vital, by 2016, to be exposed to

digital humanities and media studies training: for their research, for their teaching, and for a solid start to their careers.

Describe the educational prerequisites (and professional prerequisites, if appropriate) required of students for admission to this program.

The Graduate Certificate in DHMS for graduate students enrolled in CLAS or Fine Arts PhD or MA/MFA programs will require a total of twelve credits: 3 credits in one of the core courses, two 3-credit electives from the approved list, and one 3-credit independent study, working on the DHMS Portfolio.

Certificate courses do not require any pre-requisites. Graduate students applying to the Certificate program must be full-time students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Each of the core courses will introduce students to key aspects of digital humanities within the context of media studies and digital cultures. They will provide historical, literary and philosophical perspectives for thinking broadly about and working within digital humanities and media studies, as well as expose students to applications and technical skills to merge theory with practice. Additional tuition will not be charged for participating in the Certificate program.

Describe similar programs nationally, regionally, or in CT.

There are no similar programs in CT. Northeastern University in Boston, MA, has a Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities, but it does not include Media Studies. Nationally, UCLA, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Maryland offer similar certificates, but none exist that combine the study and practice of Digital Humanities with scholarship in Media Studies.

Describe the program learning outcomes (upon successful completion of the program, students will be able to...)

The Graduate Certificate in DHMS will be administered by the Humanities Institute, under the directorship of Anke Finger (Literatures, Cultures, and Languages). The Certificate prepares students to conduct humanities research with digital tools by providing participating graduate students the knowledge about same tools, about methods, and, importantly, about theoretical issues central to interfaces between digital humanities and media studies. These may include text analysis, data mining, visualization, modeling and simulation, geo-spatial inquiries and mapping, multi-media or digital storytelling, information or knowledge design, network analysis, and interface design in combination with the history of media, media archeology, media aesthetics, media theory, media philosophy, digital cultures and game studies.

The certificate emphasizes principles and concepts that will transfer across software programs, platforms and disciplines, keeping in mind that digital technologies will emerge and that they are accompanied by questions about how we use and integrate them into our cultural and everyday knowledge and practices.

*Outcomes include:*

- a DHMS Portfolio
- a deep and theoretically sound understanding of the interfaces between Digital Humanities and Media Studies

- an in-depth practical and theoretical understanding of the humanities in the digital age as they apply to sectors within and beyond the academy
- an understanding of and experience with collaborative practice in the humanities, social sciences, and the arts as such practice applies to research and teaching with digital tools

## Curriculum information

Total number of credits required: 12

### Required courses

List the course number, title, and number of credits for each required course in the program.

#### Core Courses (students choose ONE, 3 credits each)

- ENGL 5650: Digital Humanities I
- LCL 5020: Digital Humanities, Media Studies, and Multimodal Scholarship (to be offered Spring 2017)
- DMD 5610 Introduction to Digital Humanities (to be offered Fall 2017)

### Elective courses

List the course number, title, and number of credits for each elective course in the program.

Describe any limitations on how electives may be chosen.

#### Electives (students take two electives and one independent study, with 3 credits each, totaling 9 credits)

Electives will be chosen based on the student's major field of inquiry, her/his departmental home, and her/his dissertation or thesis research, in consultation with the student's PhD or MA/MFA advisor and the Assistant Director of DHMS. One of the courses as well as the independent study can overlap with the requirements in the home department. Other courses might qualify as electives if they meet the following criteria: electives should deepen the student's understanding and theoretical and practical application of DH and Media Studies and facilitate her/his direct translation of these skills and knowledge to her/his scholarship.

Possible courses include:

COMM 5660 Computer Mediated Communication

COMM 5650 Communication Technology and Society

CSE 5302 Computer Architecture

DMD 5220 Cinematic Storytelling

ENGL 6650 Seminar in Digital Humanities

GEOG 5500 Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems

GERM 5365 German Film Studies

LING 5000 Introduction to Computational Linguistics

### Detailed course information

For each of the required and elective courses identified above (1) identify the instructor and her/his appointment status, (2) specify the expected frequency of offering (e.g., every semester, once a year), and (3) approval status (existing course or new course)

**Core Courses (students choose ONE, 3 credits each)**

ENGL 5650: Digital Humanities I

- 1) Yohei Igarashi or Bhakti Shringarpure (Assistant Professors)
- 2) To be offered every other year
- 3) Existing course

LCL 5020: Digital Humanities, Media Studies, and Multimodal Scholarship (to be offered Spring 2017)

- 1) Anke Finger (Associate Professor)
- 2) Offered once a year
- 3) Existing course

DMD 5610 Introduction to Digital Humanities (to be offered Fall 2017)

- 1) Tom Scheinfeldt (Associate Professor) or Clarissa Ceglio (Assistant Professor)
- 2) Offered every other year
- 3) Existing Course

**Possible Electives (students take two electives, 6 credits total)**

COMM 5660 Computer Mediated Communication

- 1) Kristine Nowak
- 2) every other year (last: Fall 2016)
- 3) existing course

COMM 5650 Communication Technology and Society

- 1) David Atkin
- 2) every other year (Spring 2017)
- 3) existing course

CSE 5302 Computer Architecture

- 1) Maifi Khan
- 2) every other year (last: Fall 2016)
- 3) existing course

DMD 5220 Cinematic Storytelling

- 1) Samantha Olschan
- 2) every other year
- 3) existing course

ENGL 6650 Seminar in Digital Humanities

- 1) Yohei Igarashi or Bhakti Shringarpure
- 2) every other year
- 3) existing course

GEOG 5500 Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems

- 1) Shuowei Zhang
- 2) every year (offered Spring 2017)
- 3) existing course

GERM 5365 German Film Studies

- 1) Friedemann Weidauer
- 2) every other year
- 3) existing course

LING 5000 Introduction to Computational Linguistics

- 1) Stefan Kaufmann
- 2) every year
- 3) existing course

**Program evaluation**

The administrator of the certificate program, Anke Finger, will conduct exit interviews. During the first 3 years of the certificate program, the administrator will also be in close contact with all instructors of required and elective courses to receive feedback and about accomplishing the DHMS portfolio in independent studies. Additional program evaluation measures will be added as appropriate as enrollment grows and additional elective courses may become available.