

**Nazarbayev University, School of Sciences and Humanities**

**INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

**Credit Non-Bearing Course for MA and PhD students**

**Syllabus**

**Fall 2020**

**Course Coordinator:** Nikolay Tsyrempilov

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**Office hours:** Tuesday, Thursday, 16:00-17:00pm, or by appointment

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**Instructors:** Ivan Sablin (Heidelberg University, Germany), Kilian Schultes (Heidelberg University, Germany), Zohra Ismail Beben (Nazarbayev University), Dinara Gagarina (National Research University “Higher School of Economics, Russia), Andrew Wright, Anthony Lauricella, Jenifer Feng (The University of Chicago, USA), Andrea Nanetti (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

**Required Materials:** Internet access

**Course Description**

As primary sources of information are more frequently digitized and available online than ever before, how can we use those sources to ask new questions? How geographic distribution of mosques correlates with location of old urban centers in Kazakhstan? What influences informed the creation and evolution of the Abay poetry? How is the Russian colonization in the 18-early 20th c. connected to construction of the Orthodox cathedrals? How can I understand or interpret all pieces of Kazakh literature all at once? The answers to these questions can be explored using a wide variety of digital tools, methods, and sources.

As museums, libraries, archives and other institutions have digitized collections and artifacts, new tools and standards have been developed that turn those materials into machine-readable data. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI), for example, have enabled humanities researchers to process vast amounts of textual data. However, these advances are not limited just to text. Sound, images, and video have all been subject to these new forms of research. This course will show you how to manage the many aspects of digital humanities research and scholarship. Whether you are a student or researcher, teacher or public activist — or just plain curious — this course will help you bring your area of study or interest to new life using digital tools.

**Learning and Teaching Methods**

The course will be delivered through five synchronous Zoom classes scheduled during two weeks. Each student will have to attend all classes. The classes will all be available through permanent Zoom link. Each class will continue for 90 minutes and will consist of a lecture and consequent Q&A session. Recorded lectures will be accessible only to officially registered students during one week after the course is finished.

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how digital humanities methods and practices are applied in different disciplines;
2. Identify resources for digital humanities in various human spheres;
3. Critically discuss digital humanities projects in light of current methods and theoretical approaches to the field

## **Student Responsibilities**

Students are responsible for:

- Being present at every Zoom class with their laptop cameras switched on during entire Zoom sessions;
- Participating actively in Q&A sessions;
- Following directions accurately and asking questions when you do not understand;

## **Attendance and Absence Policies**

- There are ordinarily no excused absences. Students are marked absent when they do not come to class for any reason.
- Students are marked late when they come to class more than 5 minutes late.
- Two lates equals one absence.
- Students are marked absent when they come to class more than 10 minutes late.
- One absence for any reason, will result in failure of the course.
- If you are absent for technical reasons, inform the coordinator as soon as possible by email or phone.
- Students must stay online till the end of every class.
- Students must take part in the survey by the end of the course.

## **Enrollment Requirements**

To take the course you need:

- To be a graduate or doctorate student in humanities or social sciences in one of the programs in humanities or social sciences of Nazarbayev University and Lev Gumilev Eurasian National University;
- To have skills in English sufficient for understanding lectures and engagement in discussions;
- To register for the course (one needs to fill the online form included in the official announcement) on first come first serve basis after the course registration is officially announced.

*You are responsible for understanding and meeting all course requirements. Contact the coordinator if you have questions!*

## **Certificates**

To receive a certificate:

- you have to be officially registered for the course;
- you cannot have more than a total of two lates and any absences;
- you have to take part in the course survey.

### Additional Policies

- You have to be engaged in listening the lectures and subsequent discussion in the full duration of each class;
- Please keep your microphone switched off (unless you ask questions or take part in discussions) and camera switched on during Zoom sessions.

### Schedule of Classes

Class Date	Instructor	Class Contents
October 9 (Friday), 10:00-11:30 am	Zohra Ismail Beben, Investment Potential of Sacred Geography of Kazakhstan Project co-PI	The lecture will discuss the peculiarities of the application of GIS technologies to Anthropological research, in particular the use of GIS for management and analysis of geospatial data in anthropological contexts, both experimenting with methods and critically examining case studies. The lecture should cover both methodological approaches (collecting data in the field and finding publicly-available data as well as integrating and querying it in a GIS) and theoretical implications (the nature of spatial data as well as scales and topics of analysis). It should also present selected case studies and consider critiques that have been leveled at GIS in particular and spatial analysis in general.
October 9 (Friday), 1:00-2:30 pm	Dinara Gagarina, PhD, Dean of the School of social sciences and humanities, Higher School of Economics in Perm, Director of MA Program "Digital Methods in the Humanities", author of the online course "Digital History" on the Open Education platform	In the lecture, we will discuss what new problems have arisen in the humanities based on information technology and quantitative methods. Solving these problems and applying new methods often requires different approaches to organizing information and data. Hence, new tasks arise in relation to the description and storage of data - from standardization to openness and coherence. In the second part, we will turn to educational programs that prepare specialists for solving new problems, and how various fields of science and different types of sources are combined within the Digital Humanities. Using the example of European and Russian educational programs, let's talk about who a digital humanist is and what he should be able to do.

<p>October 10 (Saturday) 1:00-2:30</p>	<p>Andrea Nanetti, Nanyang Technological University</p>	<p>The lecture will focus on the Engineering Historical Memory (EHM) methods used in heritage studies. EHM uses pre-modern Afro-Eurasia (1205-1533) as a case study for interactive global histories. Currently Dr Nanetti runs EHM in LIBER (Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Bookish and Experiential Research), which is a laboratory that he established at the School of Art, Design and Media of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in January 2019, and since then he is its Director. At NTU Singapore the laboratory is run in collaboration with faculty of the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, and the School of Computer Science and Engineering.</p>
<p>October 11 (Sunday), 10:00-11:30 am</p>	<p>Andrew Wright, Anthony Lauricella, Jenifer Feng, University of Chicago Oriental Institute</p>	<p>The lecture will introduce the most advanced technical means used in the research projects of the Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL). CAMEL provides a space for students and researchers to study ancient landscapes using Geographic Information System (GIS) software and a large database of historical maps and high-resolution satellite imagery. For the past five years, CAMEL has supported the ongoing Afghan Heritage Mapping Partnership (AHMP), one of three cooperative projects between the University of Chicago and the Afghan government, Archaeology Institute of Afghanistan, and National Museum in Kabul. Our mission is to locate, record, and monitor archaeological and cultural heritage sites in Afghanistan. The AHMP began by digitizing Warwick Ball's Archaeological Gazetteer of Afghanistan and continues to discover new sites using a variety of sources, including declassified CORONA satellite imagery, Soviet-era topographic maps, and high-resolution aerial imagery. Some of the AHMP's recent projects have been a study of caravanserais, analyses of site destruction through looting and urban expansion, and the automatic detection of karez water channels. Finally, our mission includes training our Afghan colleagues to improve and expand their GIS skills so that they can continue our work in the future.</p>
<p>October 15 (Thursday), 6:00-7:30 pm</p>	<p>Kilian Schultes and Ivan Sablin, Heidelberg University</p>	<p>As part of the Digital Humanities, (historical) geographic information systems, in short (H)GIS, found their way into history. Ideally, HGIS inspire historians to combine sources in a new way, to take geographical contextualization into account in their interpretation, to question previous knowledge</p>

		<p>against this background, and above all to ask new questions. This introductory lecture will outline the state of art, scrutinize the perspectives and the opportunities of Historical GIS between history, geoinformatics, and archeology, and offer some practical advice for beginners. The lecture will discuss inter alia commercial and open-source software and available databases.</p>
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