Transcript:

* As an English major who loves literature and hates using many forms of technology, taking an English class based on the digital aspects of the humanities was a substantial risk. I was not familiar with the digital humanities field whatsoever upon entering the class, and I was honestly a bit distressed that I would not be able to succeed in the class due to my terrible and minimal experience with editing programs or really any type of online project. I was worried my lack of knowledge would be an issue, however, our discussions in class and article readings made me aware of just how broad the field is. There is no true definition of the DH field as it encompasses a variety of techniques, collaboration methods, and projects that strengthen the presence of the digital humanities in academics and society in general. Using technology and digitization in the humanities allows for a spread of knowledge and a greater opportunity for research.
* Our first project was a Digital Humanities report on any project or topic within the field. I managed to incorporate my love for literature into my project by choosing to investigate the William Blake Archive and how diligent team members use coding, digitization, and a website with a carefully made search engine to make all of Blake’s work available to anyone who can access the website. I am very fond of Blake’s poetry and wanted to use my experience and familiarity with his work to examine how the archive functions and benefits those interested in comparing Blake’s engravings to each other and understanding the progression in his work, all on behalf of digital archives that are easily accessible.
* We were given the task of creating the report into a video, which was our first real experience with digital programs in the course. The only video project I have created during my college career prior to this class was an English 105 project where I became familiar with Adobe Rush. Although I became very comfortable with the program, I of course quickly lost my limited technological knowledge. Creating the DH video made me more comfortable using the program and gave me more confidence in my abilities to communicate my ideas as I was able to convey research both in a written report and short video with visuals of my research navigation and clips to enhance the understanding of a viewer.
* Creating the podcast was the second best project in my opinion as it also gave me a bit more confidence. I still hate hearing my voice on a recording, but addressing accessibility issues regarding technology and limitations of knowledge in a small group was a great experience as I learned about issues in society that extend to the digital humanities while also learning about how podcasts are created and edited through my use of Adobe Audition. I had a lot of trouble navigating Audacity and getting past glitches and unclear tools. Adobe Audition was easy to use even for someone like me, and it was quite interesting to explore the potential and freedom the program provides for the creation of projects.
* I learned how to lay audio clips on top of one another and change volumes and minimize white noise while doing the best to level out the volumes of all speakers to a consistent height.
* I am still not confident in my ability to use digital platforms, but it was definitely beneficial to my understanding of the digital humanities field as I got hands on experience creating my own projects that revolve around issues, topics, or existing work in DH. Although I definitely cannot consider myself proficient in Adobe Rush or Audition, I enjoyed being able to explore the possibilities they provide and at least attempt to make myself more accepting of the programs.
* English 480 has expanded my knowledge of the humanities. I have always loved English and studying literature, but I had never even entertained the thought of how technology could take a prominent place in the field. I was able to learn about the many broad definitions of DH, the arguments made by those working in DH, create storyboards to organize my thoughts and prepare me for digital projects, and become more familiar with these online platforms, all of which can be seen on my portfolio of my compiled class assignments.
* This course was a bit stressful to me in the beginning after realizing I didn’t need to even buy a notebook as everything would take place online, however, i am appreciative of the new outlook it gave me of the humanities and the potential for expansion and improvement thanks to technology.