

The Humanities Department Committee on program revisions has suggested that the Digital Humanities major be put on hiatus beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year. This proposal has the support of the Humanities faculty. After presenting to UGSC on 2/13/24 and 2/27/24, the Humanities department is requesting UGSC to vote on and pass our current proposal.

**\*Why does the Humanities Department want to put the Digital Humanities major on hiatus?**

The department recognized that "digital" humanities was no longer needed to describe a special way of doing humanities. Our most recent hires reflect this point, and the general consensus was to merge our humanities and digital humanities degree programs. It's not really possible to do humanities research these days without being comfortable working with digital materials or communicating research digitally.

In addition, after a number of faculty retirements and departures, the Humanities Department no longer has the resources to support this program. For example, of the six courses required of all DH majors, four are no longer supported by current faculty (Hum 208, Com 330, Com 331, and Hist 355). The major includes 5 possible specializations, many of which present challenges given the department's current resources. For example, the Policy and Ethics specialization in DH includes 12 possible classes in Humanities; due to faculty retirements, none of these classes has been offered in the last two years. The Humanities Department does not feel it is in the interest of students to continue enrolling them in a program we are no longer able to support.

**\*What programs can students interested in Digital Humanities enroll in if Digital Humanities is put on hiatus?**

Students currently interested in Digital Humanities are well-served by our current Humanities major which offers the flexibility to pursue course work in the various disciplines/specializations supported by current faculty. The Humanities Department at IIT integrates work in Digital Humanities throughout its teaching and research. Students specifically interested in the Digital Humanities: Game Studies and Design specialization can now enroll in the Game Studies and Experiential Media major.

**\*What about students currently enrolled in DH?**

There are currently 12 students enrolled in Digital Humanities with the last student scheduled to graduate in 2027. The Humanities Department is fully committed to supporting our existing DH students; advisors have been helping students to find necessary course substitutions to complete their programs of study.