MUSC 089H: Digital Isabella d'Este
Prof. Anne MacNeil (macneil@unc.edu)
Hill Hall 212
Office hours: MWF 10-10:45am

*Digital Isabella d'Este* is designed to prepare students for future opportunities in the digital humanities, international research collaborations, and interdisciplinary European studies. Through group work on the on-going development of an open-access digital research forum, we will study the correspondence, music, and history of one of the most prominent female figures of the Italian Renaissance, Isabella d'Este, Marchesa of Mantua (1474-1539). Because Isabella d'Este is the textbook example of a multi-talented Italian "Renaissance woman," her activities interest researchers in a wide range of disciplines. Our project will aim to assemble at one site a tool for continuing collaborative study of all of her pursuits. Direct access to Isabella's correspondence, the rooms she lived in, and the artifacts of her aesthetic environment are currently restricted to those who can travel to a small city in Italy where these materials are preserved. Upon arrival in Mantua, one may (with special permission) visit the famous art and performance space Isabella created in the Ducal Palace, her *studiolo*, but such visits can be disappointing. Except for ceiling decorations and the remnants of a few painted walls, these rooms stand empty today, their paintings, books, sculptures, clocks, and musical instruments scattered in museum collections around the globe, their music long silenced. *Digital Isabella d'Este* seeks to assemble interactive resources for study of this important figure "in the round."

This seminar fulfills College of Arts & Sciences perspectives VP and WB. There are no pre-requisites for this seminar; students need not have any prior knowledge or experience in music, computer programming, or foreign languages.

The professor reserves the right to alter, amend, add to, or subtract from this syllabus as the semester progresses. Any such changes will be announced in class.

Throughout this semester, in all aspects pertaining to this seminar, you are expected to uphold the UNC Honor Code. Everything you write should reflect your own thoughts and ideas; group work and group presentations should be clearly designated as the product of a collective effort. Plagiarism (claiming someone else's thoughts, ideas, or words as your own) will result in a failing grade.

Grade calculation:
Keep a journal of all your activities that pertain to this seminar. Everytime you read something, or listen to something, or have an idea about the *Digital Isabella d'Este* forum, write it down! Write down the new things you're learning from seminar activities and assignments (including things we do in class), and write down what thoughts this new information inspires in you. You are required to write a minimum of three entries per week; don't worry about grammar or slang—these journal entries are meant to reflect your stream of consciousness. Sketches, drawings, and designs are most welcome. Be sure to include vocabulary that is unfamiliar to you so we can discuss it in class. Journals will be submitted to the professor on the first of each month, and each submission (February 1, March 1, April 1, April 26) will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Active participation in class (not just sitting silently) is an important aspect of all seminars. Your active involvement in every class will count toward 15% of your final grade (1% for each week of the semester). We will have regular in-class exercises (for example, in listening to music or reading Isabella d'Este's letters); be sure to bring a notebook and writing utensil with you to every class to hand in.

25% of your final grade will be based on your active participation in small-group assignments, your enthusiastic work with the Graduate Research Consultant, and your group's well-prepared and professional presentations of materials and information to the class. Presentation dates will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Class schedule:
Holidays: Jan 21, Mar 9-17, Mar 29

Introduction: Wednesday 9 January—Friday 11 January
        Assignment for Friday: 1) register to use BIA at www.medici.org

2) read the entry on Isabella d'Este on Wikipedia
3) use Google Earth to go to Mantua, Italy and look around the city

Week 1: Monday 14 January—Friday 18 January
    Assignment: For Monday: read chapters 1-5 of
    Cartwright, Julia. *Isabella d'Este*. Open Content Alliance: Internet Archive (access through the UNC
    Libraries online catalogue).
    For Friday: read Cartwright, *Isabella d'Este*, chapters 6-11.

Week 2: Wednesday 23 January—Friday 25 January
    Assignment: For Wednesday: read Cartwright, *Isabella d'Este*, chapters 12-20.

Week 3: Monday 28 January—Friday 1 February
    Assignment: For Monday: read Cartwright, *Isabella d'Este*, chapters 21-27.
    For Friday: read Cartwright, *Isabella d'Este*, chapters 28-35.

Week 4: Monday 4 February—Friday 8 February
    Assignment: For Monday: read Cartwright, *Isabella d'Este*, chapters 36-43.

Week 5: Monday 11 February—Friday 15 February

Week 6: Monday 18 February—Friday 22 February
    Assignment: for Monday: read Prizer, William F. "Una 'virtù molto conveniente a madonne': Isabella
    D'Este as a Musician," *Journal of Musicology* 17 (1999): 10-49. JSTOR (access through the UNC
    Libraries homepage).

Week 7: Monday 25 February—Friday 1 March
    Assignment: for Monday: read Prizer, William F. " Isabella d'Este and Lucrezia Borgia as Patrons of
    Music: The Frottola at Mantua and Ferrara," *JAMS* 38 (1985): 1-33. JSTOR

Week 8: Monday 4 March—Friday 8 March
    Assignment: for Monday: read Prizer, William F. "Isabella d'Este and Lorenzo da Pavia, 'Master
    Instrument-Maker'," *Early Music History* 2 (1982): 87-127. JSTOR

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Week 9: Monday 18 March—Friday 22 March
    Assignment: for Monday: begin reading Brown, Clifford. *Isabella d'Este in the Ducal Palace in Mantua*.
    Rome: Bulzoni, 2005. (UNC E-book) Read at least the introduction and chapter 1. We will decide as a
    group how much and how quickly we can read other sections of the book through the end of the
    semester.

Week 10: Monday 25 March—Wednesday 27 March

Week 11: Monday 1 April—Friday 5 April

Week 12: Monday 8 April—Friday 12 April

Week 13: Monday 15 April—Friday 19 April

Week 14: Monday 22 April—Friday 26 April