Curriculum Proposal for PhD Programmes in Digital and Environmental Humanities

JP Narayan National Centre of Excellence in the Humanities (JPNCOEH)

Indian Institute of Technology Indore

www.jpnnationalcentre.com

Jaya Prakash Narayan National Centre of Excellence in the Humanities was established in October 2022 with the specific objective of facilitating and developing cutting-edge research projects and academic programmes in the areas of Digital and Environmental Humanities. The PhD Programme in Digital and Environmental Humanities offers an innovative and unique programme while also maintaining rigorous academic excellence. The primary objective of the programme is to train students in these interdisciplinary areas so they can either pursue career in research or acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to be absorbed in Museums, libraries, the publishing industry, think tanks, policy centres, corporate and legal firms. This interdisciplinary doctoral programme consciously incorporates a very high mix of theoretical knowledge and practical projects, experiments and hands-on experience with problem-solving challenges.

PhD Programmes in Humanities with specific research areas:
(i) Digital Humanities, and
(ii) Environmental Humanities

Description of Digital Humanities

Digital Humanities is an interdisciplinary field that explores the intersections between digital technologies and traditional humanities disciplines. It encompasses the use of digital tools and methodologies to study, analyze, and represent various aspects of human culture, including history, languages, literature, and more. Through the lens of digital theory, scholars in this field seek to understand and interpret cultural phenomena in innovative ways, leveraging technology to uncover new insights and perspectives.

At its core, Digital Humanities involves the creation and analysis of digital representations of human culture. This can take many forms, such as digitized historical documents, linguistic databases, virtual reality simulations, and interactive digital publications. By harnessing the power of digital tools, researchers can delve deeper into the complexities of human experience, enabling new modes of exploration and interpretation.

In recognition of the growing importance of digital approaches in the humanities, PhD programs in Digital Humanities are emerging to train the next generation of scholars and practitioners. These programs equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in both academic and non-academic settings. Graduates are prepared for diverse career opportunities in the public and private sectors, including cultural heritage organizations, government bodies, and related services. Whether working to preserve and digitize cultural artifacts or developing innovative digital platforms for scholarly communication, Digital Humanities professionals play a vital role in shaping our understanding of the past and present while paving the way for future discoveries.

Description of the Environmental Humanities

Environmental Humanities is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to address environmental issues through the lenses of arts, humanities, and social sciences. By drawing upon diverse perspectives and methodologies, this program offers a holistic approach to understanding and confronting environmental challenges.

Spanning topics such as climate change, environmental justice, the ontology of nature, history, ecology, and civilizational studies, Environmental Humanities provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing the complex relationships between humans and the environment. Through critical inquiry and creative expression, students explore the intricate interplay between cultural, social, political, and ecological factors shaping our understanding of the natural world.

Graduates of Environmental Humanities programs are well-equipped for a variety of career paths. Opportunities abound in education, where they can teach and inspire future generations about environmental issues and sustainable practices. Additionally, positions in the development sector allow graduates to work on projects aimed at promoting environmental conservation and social equity. Governmental and non-governmental organizations offer roles focused on policy advocacy, environmental research, and community engagement. Moreover, with the increasing emphasis on corporate social and environmental responsibilities, there are opportunities for Environmental Humanities professionals to contribute to sustainability initiatives within the corporate sector.

Minimum Educational Qualifications (MEQs) and Qualifying Examination (QE) for Indian applicants

- MPhil degree in a relevant discipline of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) (with first division as defined by the awarding Institute/ University) **AND** UGC-JRF/ UGC-NET*/GATE* in the relevant discipline of HSS/Humanities

OR
- Master's degree in a relevant specialization of HSS (with first division as defined by the awarding Institute/ University) **AND** UGC-JRF/ UGC-NET */GATE* in Humanities/HSS.

OR
- Masters' degree in other **relevant specialization of these two research areas** (with first division as defined by the awarding Institute/ University) **AND** UGC-JRF/ UGC-NET*/Equivalent Fellowship.

GATE qualification is not compulsory for DF / IS / CT / SW category.

*UGC-NET/GATE qualified students will be considered under JPN Centre' Funded Fellowship which will be limited to 2 seats.

Minimum Educational Qualifications (MEQs) and Qualifying Examination (QE) for International Applicants:

- Masters' degree in **relevant specialization of Humanities and Social Sciences** (with first division as defined by the awarding Institute/ University)

AND   Valid TOEFL/IELTS **OR** equivalent qualification **OR** Valid GATE qualification

1.**PhD Course Credit Requirements:** The minimum and maximum number of courses and credits for the different categories will be as follows.

Category I: PhD students with M.Phil. Or equivalent qualification shall do 3 PG level courses of at least 3 credits each and 1 PhD seminar course of at least 2 credits. The minimum credits required to be earned through coursework will be of 11 credits.

Category II: PhD students having M.A or equivalent qualification shall do 5 PG Level Theory courses of at least 3 credits each and 2 PhD seminar courses at least 2 credits each. The minimum credits required to be earned through coursework will be of 17 credits.

2.**Duration of PhD Coursework**: All the Ph.D. students are required to do course work, which shall normally be completed:
(a) Within one semester from the date of joining by the students having M.Phil. Or equivalent qualification; and within two semesters from the date of joining by the students have Master's degree as qualification;
(b) All the PhD students MUST complete their course under normal circumstances maximum work within ONE year of joining the PhD program.
(c) For any variation other than the requirements mentioned in (a)-(b), permission from the School Post Graduate Committee (SPGC) will be required which will consider the recommendations of the Centre's Post Graduate Committee (CPGC) while deciding on the matter.

Programme Objectives:
1. The Ph.D. programme will help acquire advanced research skills and methodologies relevant to the digital and environmental humanities domain.
2. Foster interdisciplinary collaboration by engaging with scholars from diverse fields, including humanities, computer science, information technology, environmental science, biology and social sciences.
3. Develop a strong ethical framework for responsible and inclusive practices in the application of technology to humanistic inquiry. Engage in continuous professional development by actively participating in conferences, workshops, and seminars.
4. Successfully defend the dissertation, demonstrating mastery of the chosen research area and contributing significantly to the advancement of humanities scholarship.

(A)   Semester-I (Autumn/Spring)

Sl. No.	Course code	Course Title	L-T-P-Credits*
1	ZZ XXX	Elective 1	2-0-2-3
2	ZZ XXX	Elective -2	3-0-0-3
3	ZZ XXX	Elective -3	3-0-0-3
4	DEH 797/DEH 798	**Ph.D. Seminar Course**	0-2-0-2
		Total credits	**11**

(B)   Semester-II (Spring/Autumn)

Sl. No.	Course code	Course Title	L-T-P-Credits*
1	ZZ XXX	Elective -1	3-0-0-3
2	ZZ XXX	Elective -2	3-0-0-3
3	ZZ XXX	Elective -3	3-0-0-3
4	DEH 797/798	**Ph.D. Seminar Course**	0-2-0-2
		Total credits	**11**

*L-T-P-Credits distribution may vary according to the Elective chosen.

Total minimum credit requirements for MPhil or equivalent qualified students are 11 credits (3 Theory courses and 1 Seminar course).

Total minimum credit requirements for MA or equivalent qualified students are 17 credits (5 Theory courses and 2 Seminar courses

List of Elective Courses (Indicative):

Sl. No.	Course code	Course Title	L-T-P-Credits*
1	DEH XXX	Research Methods in Humanities	2-0-2-3
2	HS 455/655	Digital Humanities	3-0-0-3
3	HS 615	Humanities and Technology	3-0-0-3
4	HS 410/610	Media Studies	3-0-0-3
5	HS 418/618	Sustainability Studies	3-0-0-3
6	HS 626	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3-0-0-3
7	HS 611	Philosophy of Natural Sciences	3-0-0-3
8	AA 410/610	Spatial Informatics	2-1-0-3
9	CE 418/618	Disaster Management	2-1-0-3

(A) **Semester-I (Autumn / Spring)**

Course Code	**DEH XXX**
Title of the Course	**Research Methods in Humanities**
Course Category	Elective Course
Credit Structure	L-T-P- Credits 2-0-2-3
Name of the Concerned Department	JP Narayan National Centre of Excellence in the Humanities
Pre-requisite, if any	None
Scope of the Course (Objectives)	• Demonstrate in depth knowledge of selected methodologies related to Humanities disciplines, especially digital and environmental humanities • Introduce and explore avenues of new and emerging societal and cultural entities in digital and environmental humanities • Introduce several qualitative and quantitative tools
Course Outcomes	• The course enables the students to explore the complexity, issues, benefits and drawbacks of interdisciplinary approaches. • Understanding theories and applying appropriate methods to case studies, theorising /abstract concepts and empirical investigations of generalised concepts
Course Content	1. **Convergent Practices:** research methods in and about philosophy, society, culture, and language 2. **In Context and Approaches:** Versions of Digital and Environmental humanities across the globe 3. **Methodologies:** Constructing Research Questions for a variety of disciplinary contexts (for e.g. in new media, social studies, mass communication and journalism, digital heritage, environmental history, ontology(de) of nature, civilizational studies, ecological studies, etc) 4. **Offline and Online Data Collection:** Surveys, Interviews, Focus Groups, Scraping, Observation Approaches, Participatory Approaches 5. **Qualitative Methods:** Descriptive, Topic and Thematic Coding, Data analysis through NVivo and MaxQDA; Scaling and Measurement 6. **Quantitative Methods:** Introduction to statistical techniques, Network Analysis • **Laboratory:** Introduction to Digital Tools like Tableau, ArcGIS, SocioViz, NetVizz, MaxQDA, NVivo and, and using of statistical tools SPSS, STATA, E-Views
Suggested Books	**Text Books:** 1. Patricia Leavy. "Research design: Quantitative, qualitative, mixed

	methods, arts-based, and community-based participatory research approaches" New York: Guilford Publications, (2022), ISBN 9781462548972.
	2. P.L. Arthur & K. Bode. "Advancing digital humanities: Research, methods, theories". London: Palgrave Macmillan. (2014) ISBN-13 : 978-1137337009
	3. Niemann, U. H., Jon Christensen, Michelle. "The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities." London: Routledge Publications. (2007) ISBN 9781138786745
	Reference Books:
	1. Rose, Deborah Bird, Thom van Dooren, and Matthew Chrulew. "Extinction Studies: Stories of time, death and generations". New York: Columbia University Press. (2017) ISBN 9780231178815
	2. Lewis Levenberg, Tai Neilson, David Rheams, Research Methods for the Digital Humanities. London: Palgrave Macmillan. (2018) ISBN-13 978-3319967127
	3. Rose, D. B., et al. "Thinking through the environment, unsettling the humanities." Environmental Humanities 1(1): 1-5 (2012). https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-3609940 (Journal Article)
Instructors	Prof. Nirmala Menon Prof. Pritee Sharma