The Liberal Arts Program presents

**Liberal Arts Guest Speaker Series**

“Big Data and the Humanities: What Does a Digital Humanities Center Do?”

**Dr. Laura Mandell**

29 September 2014
12-1:30 pm
LH 143

**ABSTRACT INFO:**
In this talk, Dr. Mandell will discuss how digitizing our cultural record has affected research in the Humanities, both its current practice and future directions. Big data is revitalizing interest in and opportunities for scholarship in the Humanities, from Literary Studies and Philosophy to History and Anthropology. Consequently, one thing DH Centers can do is to help redirect resources to the Humanities and prevent them from shrinking further in their academic importance. But should they? Mightn’t DH Centers rather participate in re-configuring the Humanities to meet the new needs of the university as it prepares students to be citizens of a global, digital culture? How does the existence of big data change the meaning of “cultural literacy,” and how can Digital Humanists confront the pedagogical challenge of meeting these new literacy requirements?

**BIO:**
Laura Mandell is Director of the Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture and Professor of English at Texas A&M University. She is the author of *Misogynous Economies: The Business of Literature in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (1999), a Longman Cultural Edition of *The Castle of Otranto and Man of Feeling*, and numerous articles primarily about eighteenth-century women writers. Her article in *New Literary History*, “What Is the Matter? What Literary History Neither Hears Nor Sees,” describes how digital work can be used to conduct research into conceptions informing the writing and printing of eighteenth-century poetry. She is Project Director of the Poetess Archive, an online scholarly edition and database of women poets, 1750-1900 (http://poetessarchive.org), Director of 18thConnect (http://www.18thConnect.org), and Director of ARC (http://www.arc.org), the Advanced Research Consortium overseeing NINES, 18thConnect, and MESA.

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