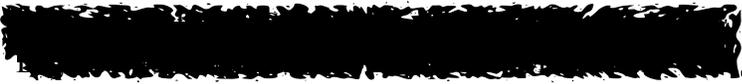


Personal Statement



At a very early age, I managed to notice that if there is something that really has appealed to me has been the mere fact of the existence of literature. I have always admired the factors that literature, regardless of what literary period it is from, manage to shape the world and society as a whole. Literature manages to tell the stories that history usually ignores. It manages to give a more complete image of how a time period was, what were the commonplace ways of thinking, how the government and world events molded the time period and, above all, it was the best tool for expression and criticism towards the same society that it represents.

The one period that has always managed to draw my attention is that of the Modernism movement. Modernism brought many new ideas and concepts that previous literary movements never brought up. It managed to push the boundaries and break away from the confines of what literature was usually seen to be. It is a movement filled with much enthusiasm over experimentation mixed in with a dreary bleakness left by the first World War. It is thanks to this literary movement that the reader is no longer a mere passenger of whatever he/she is reading, but instead becomes as much as a participant as the writer.

On the other hand, I cannot deny the rapid growth that is coming from the digital literature side of the literary spectrum. It has also appealed to me since it manages to replicate and sometimes even improve upon the breath of fresh air that Modernism brought to the way that literature was expressed. Now with the whole implementation of technology, digital literature breaks ever more from the confines of regular literature since it also manages to seep into other mediums.

With the apparent fixation that I have over these two different yet at the same times similar movements I thought that the best course of action would be to study them in a much more focused way. The University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez has managed to offer me a great set of courses that help me out very much with the studies of Modernism and also was the place of introduction for digital literature. It was thanks to a digital humanities internship, headed by a Fulbright scholar (Leonardo Flores) whose project revolved around digital literature, that digital literature was brought up to light, for I was completely unaware of the existence of such. Ever since joining his internship, I have been constantly been exposed to a vast range of digital literature, expressed in almost all forms imaginable.

With the exposure and knowledge of University of Bergen's digital culture program, I was able to determine that if I were to fully study/research about digital literature, that would be the best place to be. With the acquired knowledge from University of Puerto Rico and the possibility of acquiring knowledge at University of Bergen, I would be creating both, an international and academic bridge of which all of the knowledge that I will gain will greatly help me onward with my future studies. In being able to do this research, it will bring me much academic growth and at the same time cultural growth, for I will be exposed to a wholly different culture to which I will be able to spread within my future endeavors.