This course has two main elements:

1. The first involves our efforts to uncover, explore, analyze, and understand a wide range of writing technologies. This will involve some historical work, personal experimentation, and social research. The goal of this first element will be to understand all writing as connected to technologies of production, display, and distribution.

2. The second element of the class involves learning a newer writing technology: the coding and design web documents using html, css, and javascript. No previous experience designing and coding websites is required; students with advanced coding skills are still encouraged to enroll.

Visit the course website

http://www.english.uiuc.edu/Schaffner/teaching/fall2006/482

to view all assignments for the course, the course policies, and download revised copies of this syllabus. Most readings and links are bundled under "482" at the right-hand side of the page at

http://del.icio.us/metaspencer

Required Text and Materials:


1 USB flashdrive (512mb or more recommended)

2 accounts: http://del.icio.us & https://netfiles.uiuc.edu
Grade Distribution

20% of your grade: participation and discussion

This portion of your grade is based on your contributions to class discussion, active maintenance of a del.icio.us account, collaboration with other students on group projects and efforts, regular and consistent participation (first 2 missed days excused; additional days missed = 2% off final grade).

80% of your grade: writing and projects

- 20% reading response papers (graded √− √ √+ and averaged together; lowest dropped)
- 10% writing on clay project
- 10% campus handwriting project (EUTO)
- 10% typewriting research project (EOTU)
- 10% design your own typeface project
- 10% major site revision
- 10% project on campus online writing (EOTU)

Policies:

Policies in this course regarding diversity, academic integrity, late work, participation, missed classes, and much more can be found by clicking on "policies" from the course website or going directly to

http://www.english.uiuc.edu/Schaffner/teaching/policies.html

You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with these stated policies and responding with a quick email letting me know that you have read them. Please see me immediately if you have any trouble fulfilling your obligations in this course.
# Course Calendar

If a reading is listed as available at "/history.482," locate it at [http://del.icio.us/metaspencer/history.482](http://del.icio.us/metaspencer/history.482). Please print readings (when possible and manageable) and bring the paper version(s) with you to class.

## Week 1: Introductions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed Aug 23</td>
<td>introductions; overview of the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>assignment given:</strong> set up your del.icio.us and netfiles.uiuc.edu accounts for Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Aug 25</td>
<td><em>meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>overview of our web work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the basic architecture of the web, how it works, how we'll be using it</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• explanation of scripting software, how it works, how it differs from what we'll be doing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the dynamics of code and display</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• working with directories</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• organizing your directories in /482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• organizing your bookmarks on del.icio.us</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>due today:</strong> email <a href="mailto:spencers@uiuc.edu">spencers@uiuc.edu</a> with your netfiles and del.icio.us account names. They should read &quot;<a href="https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/NETID/482">https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/NETID/482</a> and <a href="http://del.icio.us/USERNAME">http://del.icio.us/USERNAME</a>&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Week 2: Writing on Clay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon Aug 28</td>
<td><strong>read for today:</strong> Dennis Baron's &quot;From Pencils to Pixels: The Stages of Literacy Technology&quot; (/history.482)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>due today:</strong> reading response paper for &quot;From Pencils to Pixels&quot; (bring paper copy to class and store .doc on your flash drive); see reading-response assignment sheet for details</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>assigned today:</strong> &quot;writing on clay&quot; project and website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Aug 30</td>
<td><strong>due today:</strong> parts 1 and 2 of &quot;writing on clay&quot; assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Sept 1</td>
<td><em>meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>introduction to html</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• resizing your images (if necessary)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• two part structure of an html web page (head and body)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the fundamental parts of a page (html, head, body)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• index pages</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• /images folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• how tags control text and objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• basic tags to know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• online resources for coding in html
• controlling text with inline tags (font, size, color, attributes)
• links

**Due by the end of class**: a simple index.html page in /482 with growing list of assignments by due date (most recent at top)

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**Week 3: Handwriting, Pens, and Pencils**

**Mon Sept 4**

no class -- Labor Day

**Wed Sept 6**

due today: part 3 of "writing on clay" assignment
come to class prepared to discuss your project

read for today: Wilson, Shari "The Surprising Process of Writing" and comments from readers at the bottom of the page (/handwriting.482)

read for today: Eugene Hsu's homepage (/handwriting.482)

assignment given: "campus handwriting" (EOTU)

**Friday Sept 8**

due today: handwritten reading response paper to Wilson's article (bring paper copy to class and store digital .jpg or .gif on your flash drive)

meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)

introduction to html continued
• different kinds of links (internal; external; same page targets)
• images (hosted, resized, "stolen" bandwidth)
• embedded objects of other kinds (vids, sounds, gifs)
• background colors
• background sounds
• redirects
• iframes and the architecture of syndication

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**Week 4: Handwriting, Pens, and Pencils cont.**

**Mon Sept 11**

read for today: Daniel Chandler's "The Phenomenology of Writing By Hand" (/handwriting.482)

read for today: Susan Snyder's "Penmanship: A lost pursuit for students" and Seema Mehtah's "Remember Penmanship" (/handwriting.482)

**due today**: handwritten reflective response to "The Phenomenology of Writing By Hand" and two penmanship articles (bring paper copy to class and store scan or digital image of response on your flash drive)

**Wed Sept 13**

due today: part I of "campus handwriting"

**Friday**

meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)
introduction to tables
• several ways to control text (divs, javascript, css)
• elements of a table

Week 5: Handwriting, Pens, and Pencils cont.

Mon Sept 18 due today: part II of "campus handwriting" (sent as .doc attachment to Spencer)

Wed Sept 20 peruse for today: histories of the pencil & images of handwriting on flickr (/pencils.482 & /handwriting.482, /graffiti)

Friday Sept 22 meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)

pages and sites
• designing and building a functional, stylin' page
• designing and building a functional, stylin' site
• menus and navigation
due today: "campus handwriting" part III

Week 6: The Typewriter

Mon Sept 25 read for today: Wendell Berry's "Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer" and Nate Cougill's "Why I Bought a Typewriter on eBay" (/typewriters.482)
due today: typed (on a typewriter) reading response to Berry and Cougill
assigned today: research on the typewriter (findings presented at http://typewriters.pbwiki.com/; password "engl482"; to receive credit, log on using a unique name or screen name)

Wed Sept 27 typewriter composition in-class activity

Friday Sept 29 meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)
basic css
• embedded style sheets (controlling typefaces and typography)
• external style sheets (.css files in directories)

Week 7: The Typewriter cont.

Mon Oct 2 read for today: Auster and Messer's The Story of My Typewriter (1 copy on reserve at the Undergraduate Library; 1 copy in Spencer's office)
due today: typed (on a typewriter; several can be found in the undergraduate library) reading response text to Auster and Messer's book (remember to store a .jpg or .gif of your response on your flash drive)
**due today:** typewriter research at http://typewriters.pbwiki.com
discussion of findings (come prepared to present on your sections of the wiki)

**class does not meet today — Spencer out of town for a conference**

**Week 8: Thinking With Type**

**read for today:** "Letter" section of Ellen Lupton's *Thinking With Type* (note the book's companion website at http://www.thinkingwithtype.com)
**due today:** reading response to "Letter" section of *Thinking With Type* — utilizing some of what you've read in designing your response
**assigned today:** "invent your own typeface" assignment

**Week 9: Thinking With Type cont.**

**read for today:** "Text" section of *Thinking With Type*
**due today:** reading response to "Text" section of *Thinking With Type* — utilize some of what you've read in designing your response
**assigned today:** major revision of site #1 or #2 (clay or handwriting)

**Week 10: Thinking With Type cont.**

**read for today:** "Grid" section of *Thinking With Type*
**due today:** reading response to "Grid" section of *Reading With Type* — utilize some of
what you've read in designing your response

**Week 11: The Computer/Word Processor**

**Mon Oct 30**
**due today:** "invent your own typeface" website (mytype/index.html)

**Wed Nov 1**
**read for today:** Friedrich's "Machine of the Year" (from 1983) in /computers.482
**read for today:** two sites linked to from /msword.482
**due today:** reading response to today's readings *using one of the online word processors* at /online.word.processors.482

**Friday Nov 3**
**meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)**
**javascript**
- email obfuscation
- drag-and-drop interactive image project
- other capacities of javascript

**Week 12: PowerPoint**

**Mon Nov 6**
**read for today:** Tufte's "Powerpoint is Evil"
**due today:** short .ppt reading response to Tufte's article (saved to your flash drive and posted to your main index page)

**Wed Nov 8**
**read for today:** additional short texts and blog posts at /powerpoint.482

**Friday Nov 10**
**due today by 5:00pm:** major site revision
**class does not meet today — Spencer out of town at a conference**

**Week 13: The Web**

**Mon Nov 13**
**read for today:** any three articles or links at /facebook
**due today:** reading response to readings on Facebook (w/ short bib noting readings)
**assigned today:** final project on UIUC virtual writing communities
Wed Nov 15  check out and try: the collaborative drawing tools (/collaborative.drawing.tools.482);
    William Saffire’s "Blargon" (/blogs.482)

Friday Nov 17  meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)
    work day

**Week of Nov 20**

*Class Does Not Meet — Thanksgiving Break*

**Week 14: The Web**

Mon Nov 27  due today: rough draft of final project
    come to class prepared to discuss your research

Wed Nov 29  discussion of wikis, content management software, courseware, and social software

Friday Dec 1  meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)

**Week 15: Gizmos**

Mon Dec 4  check out for today: first half of the links at /gizmos.482

Wed Dec 6  check out for today: rest of the links at /gizmos.482

Friday Dec 8  meet in the computer lab today (EB 304)
    project presentations and discussion
    due today: final project