

**Functional typography.**  
**Experiments on research in legibility.**



A typographical solution for a given problem:

Legibility and readability are two very different requirements that your typography has to fulfill.

Readability is the relative ease with which a face can be read when characters are arranged in words, sentences, and paragraphs. Unlike legibility, readability in typesetting is at the mercy of the typographer or graphic designer setting the type.

**Objectives:**

The course will concentrate on develop new typographical solution for a given problem. We teach students to experiment, to research and analyse form and function on their own projects, lessons include theory sessions on the history within social and cultural context.

The course covers all the minutiae (special characters, ligatures, dashes, and hyphens) you need to know to add finesse to your text layouts. You'll learn how and why to make kerning, leading, and tracking adjustments, exploring how your choice of typestyle affects your overall approach. You'll absorb principles of visual order by studying an advanced example of information design. In the exercise, you'll use your layout program to apply these fine-tuning techniques.

Students'll investigate the difference between seeing type and reading it, helping you develop your appreciation for both functional and expressive letterforms. Assignments challenge the students to understand ideas such as modulation, axes, contrast, etc., essential for recognising typographies.

Advanced study of typographic systems, principles and usage with an emphasis on refining the student's understanding of typography's informative, expressive and experimental potential to solve complex communication problems in a range of media.

Common technical issues include incompatibility across Windows and Macintosh systems, unreadable screen display at small point sizes, and missing characters for languages used in the European community or other parts of the world.

As technology changes so does font software. New font formats such as OpenType bring new capabilities and also challenges with respect to application software support and end user training. We can study fonts for on-screen legibility.

Legibility factors. Human factors. Visibility factors: light, atmosphere, direction of reading, distance and visible angle.

Structuring type: alignment, justified - unjustified setting.

Type size, measure, leading and weight. Ascenders, descenders, x-size, kerning. Lettering and word spacing.

Ground and foreground. Type layout. Creating emphasis.

**Prerequisites:** It's important to have previous experiences and basic knowledge on typography.

**Evaluation:**

At the end of the course, each lecturer will carry out a global evaluation. In each case, the mark may depend on whether a project is done or not, and always according to each lecturer's criteria.