Typography-1

For Semester 3 in Communication Design

Letterforms

August 2018, NID-V

► Typography-1 is meant to be a *deliberate* consideration of letterforms.

Why

Knowledge of letterforms with an evolved sense of their structural qualities lays the foundation for a more nuanced practice of communication design. Understanding the fundamentals of letter construction, proportions of the letters and recognising their relationships to each other can be translated to application in other disciplines within communication design where consistency, scale and good form comprise integral parts of the practice.

What

The four week course explores in detail latin letters-and to some extent, devanagari and other Indian language letters that the students may be familiar with. The exercises encourage students to take pause and consider form, proportion and the identity of letterforms. This necessary understanding of the space within the letters is a foundation to exploring the space in-between them (in Typography-2) and spaces in time (Typography-3) as we advance through

the graduate design program. We observe how context—both material and social—shapes letterforms through simple lessons in history and attempt form-giving exercises inspired by this rich history. In addition to the hands-on exercises, we also look forward to reading select texts on type and writing weekly essays on related topics as tools of reflection while improving our typographic vocabulary.

What For

To Appreciate Good Form

To See Letterforms in a New Light See the spaces within, and their proportions; see them as artefacts with history and shaped by context (tools, surfaces, society). To Write

Familiarise ourselves with the art of looking critically and indulge in reflection/review as a way of learning.

How

Demonstration and discussion of basic concepts and skills

In-classroom discussion of student work

Room for experimentation and improvisation beyond the exercises' scope

Reading, interpreting, reviewing and documentation

Evaluation

Concept comprehension and the ability to communicate what is learned

Openness to exploration and the diversity of materials, methods and concepts explored

Contribution to classroom discussions and the ability and inclination to learn from peers

Skill acquisition and development