

Course information

Course code	TYP-214
Credits	20
Term	Autumn, twelve weeks
Contact hours	36 studio, 12 seminar
Prerequisite	TYP-101 or portfolio review

What you will be able to do by week twelve

Set a typographic hierarchy that survives four breakpoints without a redesign.
Choose and pair typefaces from evidence rather than from a mood board.
Specify a modular scale and defend the ratio you picked.
Test type for legibility at low contrast and small sizes, and read the results.
Deliver a type specimen and a working spec sheet a developer can implement.

How the studio runs

Each Friday opens with a thirty minute critique of the previous weeks work, followed by a short lecture and two hours of supervised studio time. Attendance at critique is required. Work is pinned up by 09:45.

Weeks one to six

Week 1. The measure

Line length, reading distance and why the 66 character rule is a starting point.

Week 2. Vertical rhythm

Baseline grids on screen, line height as a ratio, and where the grid should break.

Week 3. Scale

Modular scales, fluid type, and the arithmetic behind a clamp expression.

Week 4. Pairing

Superfamilies, contrast of structure, and testing a pair at real sizes.

Week 5. Hierarchy

Weight, size, colour and space as four independent levers. First assessment brief issued.

Week 6. Reading in the dark

Optical sizing, stroke compensation and why light text on dark needs a lighter weight.

Weeks seven to twelve

Week 7. Web font delivery

Subsetting, variable fonts, and the cost of a fourth weight measured in kilobytes.

Week 8. Accessible type

Contrast ratios, user text scaling to 200 percent, and dyslexia-friendly claims examined.

Week 9. Numerals and tables

Lining against old style, tabular figures, and setting a price list that aligns.

Week 10. Micro-typography

Hanging punctuation, optical margin alignment, and where to spend the effort.

Week 11. Specimen production

Building the specimen that ships with the design system. Studio time, no lecture.

Week 12. Final critique

Portfolio hand-in and public critique with two external reviewers.

Assessment and materials

Assessment

Weekly studio work	20 percent
Mid-term specimen, week 6	30 percent
Final type system and spec sheet	50 percent

Late submissions are capped at a pass unless an extension is agreed in advance.

Materials you will need

A laptop with a current type design or layout application, a loupe or magnifier, and a printer account for pin-up. Typeface licences for coursework are provided.

Reading

Detail in Typography, Jost Hochuli. The Elements of Typographic Style, Robert Bringhurst. Inclusive Components, Heydon Pickering, chapters on text and headings.

Office hours

Tuesdays 14:00 to 16:00, room 4.12, or by appointment through the studio office.