

introduction

Instructors

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<http://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103s11/instructors/>

your introduction

please take the survey

[https://bspace.berkeley.edu/samigo/servlet/Login?
id=2228441295367756511](https://bspace.berkeley.edu/samigo/servlet/Login?id=2228441295367756511)

wait list

wait!

it's not under our control,
but under the control of
the various departments
(cognitive science, history,
information, media studies)

usually, all who want one
eventually finds a place

if you do not want to continue with the course,
please drop it so someone can have your place

syllabus

HISTORY OF INFORMATION

Info103 * Cog sci C103 * Hist C192 * MS C104C

Syllabus

Week 1

18 Jan: Introduction: Why "History of Information"?

[Geoff's slides](#)

20 Jan: Talking about information

Week 2

25 Jan: Technological Determinism

Required reading:

- Heilbroner, Robert L. 1994. "Do Machines Make History?", pp. 53-65 in Merrit Roe Smith & Leo Marx eds., *Does Technology Drive History?* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press
- Williams, Raymond. 1974. "The Technology and the Society," pp 1-25 in *Television: Technology and Cultural Form*. London: Fontana.

27 Jan: The First Technologies of Information: Writing Systems

Required reading:

- Marshack, Alexander. 1999. "The Art and Symbols of Ice-Age Man," in David Crowley, ed. *Communication in History: Technology, Culture, Society*. Allyn & Bacon. Pp. 5-14
- Robinson, Andrew. 1999. "The Origins of Writing." In David Crowley, ed. *Communication in History: Technology, Culture, Society*. Allyn & Bacon. pp 36-42

Week 3

1 Feb: Cultural Effects of Writing

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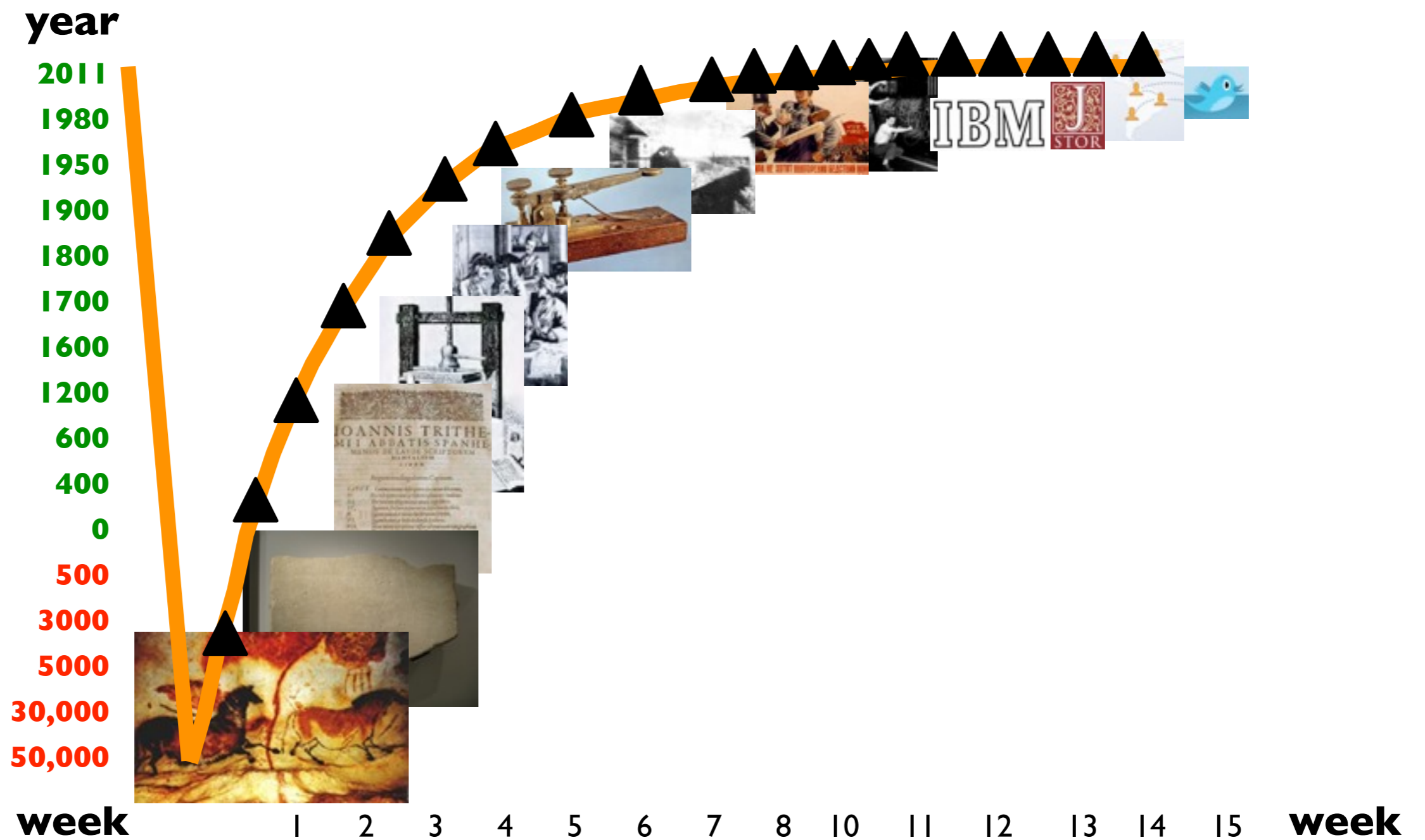
<http://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103s11/>

reader

reader
Copy Central
2560 Bancroft



where are we going?



Week 1

18 Jan: why "history of information"

20 Jan: talking about information

Week 2

25 Jan: determinism

27 Jan: writing systems

Week 3

1 Feb: cultural effects of writing

3 Feb: manuscript culture

Week 4

8 Feb: print & print culture

10 Feb: emergence of the public sphere

Week 5

15 Feb: scientific information

17 Feb: information work

Week 6

22 Feb: reference books & organization of knowledge

24 Feb: rise of literacy

Week 7

1 Mar: maps & visual information

3 Mar: narrowcast: telegraph to telephone

Week 8

8 March: literacy and 19th century public sphere

10 March: advertising

Week 9

15 March: information as property

17 March: MIDTERM

Week 10

29 March: technologies of the image

31 March: politics and propaganda

Week 11

4 April: broadcast

7 April: advent of the computer

Week 12

12 April: information and disasters

14 April: storage and search

Week 13

19 April: books, newspapers, and future of publication

21 April: social implications of the internet (1)

Week 14

26 April: social implications of the internet (2)

24 April: wrap



requirements

Course Requirements

Reading assignments and class participation (35% of course grade):

There will be twelve weekly readings assignments, each involving submission of a one- or two-paragraph answer to one of a list of several questions about the reading. Responses should be concise and no more than two hundred words. Assignments will be accepted via bSpace. Assignments will be given on Thursdays and due on Sundays. No late assignments will be accepted. No assignments will be accepted over email. Assignments will be worth up to 3 points each. We drop the two lowest assignment grades. Thus, each student can receive up to 30 points for assignments, based on their ten best assignment grades. From time to time you will be called upon to discuss your assignments in class. Participation and lecture attendance are mandatory. Professors will assign up to 5 points for class participation.

Midterm exam or paper (25% of course grade)

The midterm exam will be 80 minutes and include three essay questions, most chosen from a list of questions provided in advance. One short-answer section asking for identification of quotes, people, dates, and other topics. We will give out a study guide.

Students can submit a paper instead of a midterm exam. The midterm paper will be a 2000 word essay in response to one of a list of essay questions.

Final (40% of course grade)

Cumulative exam. Five essay questions, most chosen from a list of questions provided in advance. One short-answer section asking for identification of quotes, people, dates, and other topics.

Other

From time to time we will give brief homework assignments to be discussed in class. No grade will be assigned for class participation as such, but we tend to look kindly on students who manifest a lively interest in the proceedings.

Exam questions will be based on material covered in readings, slides, and class discussion. Class slides will be posted shortly after each class.

<http://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103s11/course-requirements/>

exams

9 March

if you wish to write a midterm essay, we will provide a list of topics on March 2 and you must let us know in writing which one you will submit by March 8

17 March

midterm exam

9 May

final

other dates

Bancroft Library Tour

dates & times:

1/31 10:30 - 12:00

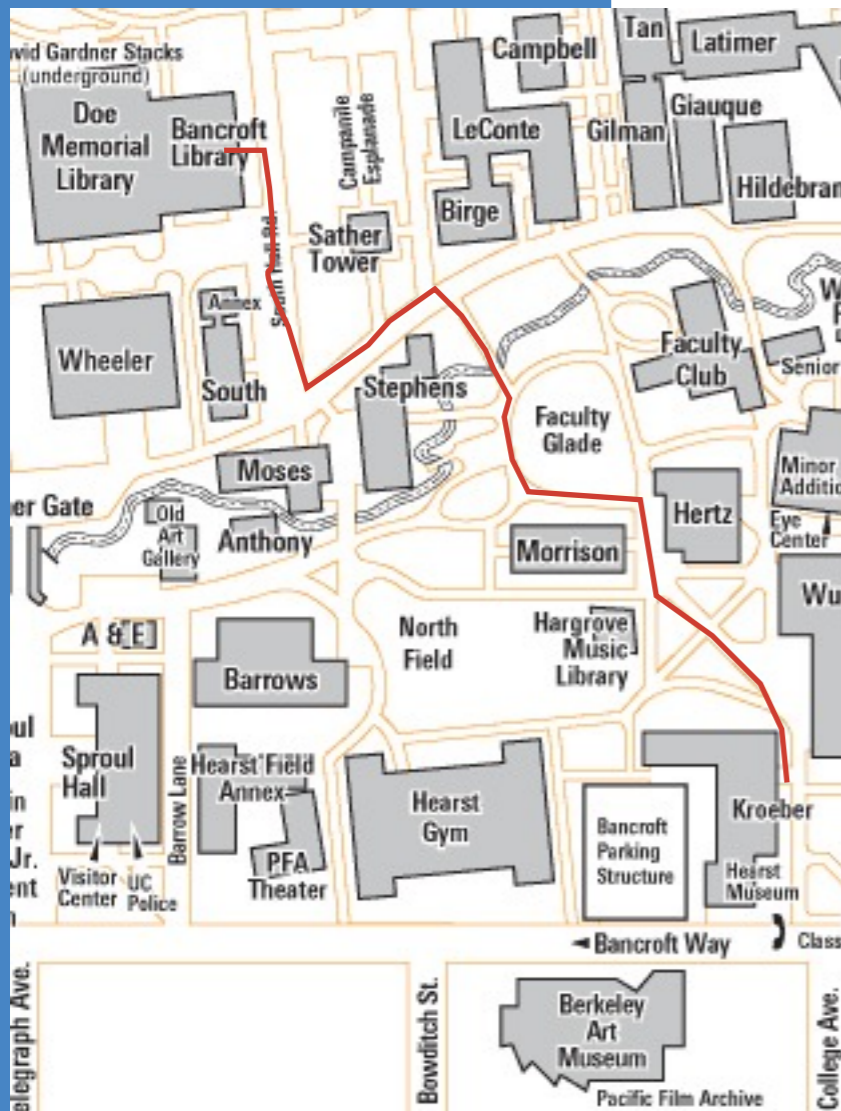
2:00 - 3:30

3:30 - 5:00

2/1 12:30 - 2:00

signup:

in the survey



coming up

Jan 20:
talking (and singing) about information

Jan 25:
technological determinism

Jan 27:
**the first technologies of information:
writing systems**

Feb 1:
cultural effects of writing

Hofl II -- Introduction II