

introduction: who are we?

¶ History of Information

INFO 103 | COG SCI C103 | HIST C 192 | MSC 104C

where are we?

Instructors

Geoffrey Nunberg

office hours:

nunberg-at-school ...

Tuesday 11 - 12 (by appointment)

Paul Duguid

office hours:

duguid-at-school.berkeley.edu

Mon 10:30 - 12 (by appointment)

203a South Hall

510 643-3894 (email preferred)

Bryan Rea

office hours:

bryan-at-school ...

Tue & Th 11:00 - 12:00 (by appt)

Babette Café

510 390 4061 (email preferred)



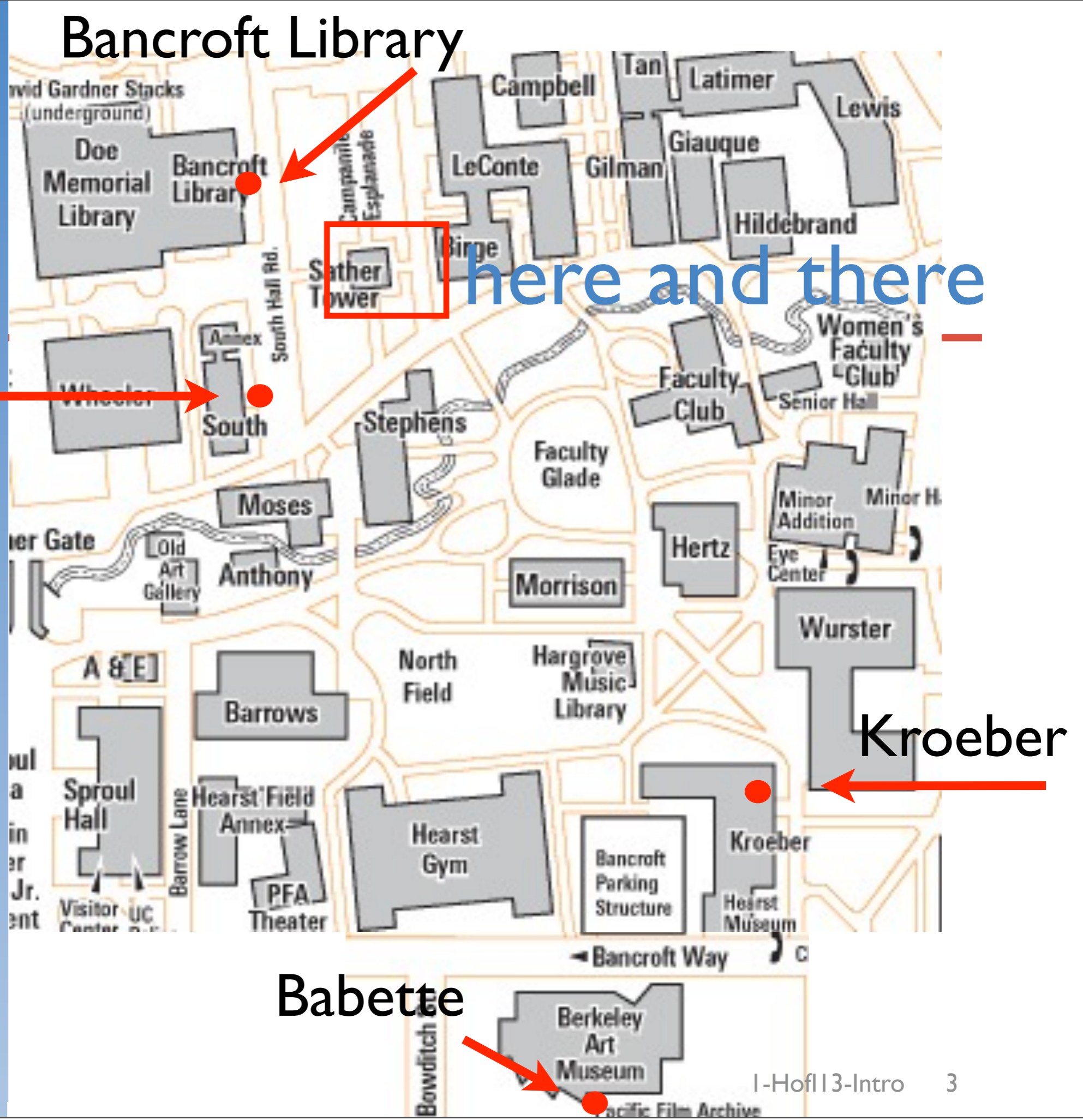
Bancroft Library

South
Hall

here and there

Kroeber

Babette



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

course web-sites

<http://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103s13/home/>

[course-requirements/](#)

[assignments/](#)

[instructors/](#)

class slides

<http://courses.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103/s13/SLIDES/I-Hof113-Intro-PD.pdf>



I-Hof113-Intro 5

requirements

Course Requirements

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

Midterm exam or paper (25% of course grade)

Final (40% of course grade)

requirements

Course Requirements

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

Participation and lecture attendance are mandatory. Professors will assign up to 5 points for class participation.

There will be **twelve assignments**. These will generally ask you to respond to some of the reading in the syllabus. For the most part, these assignments require short answers of no more than two paragraphs (or two hundred words) to questions about the readings. There are some guidelines for writing responses from a past class [here](#). Responses are worth up to 3 points each. Your two lowest grades will be dropped. 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.

Assignments will normally be given on Thursdays and **must be submitted via bspace by 5 pm on Sunday**. No late assignments and no assignments sent by email will be accepted. **You may be called upon to discuss your assignments in class.**

requirements

Midterm exam or paper (25% of course grade) [March 21]

The midterm will be an 80 minute, in-class exam and include three essay questions, two chosen from a list of questions provided in advance.

There will also be short-answer sections asking you to identify quotations, people, dates, images, and other aspects of the course.

We will give out a study guide. Exam questions will be based on material covered in readings, slides, and class discussion. Class slides will normally be posted shortly before each class.

Students can ask to submit a paper instead of a midterm exam. This paper will be a 2000 word essay in response to one of a list of essay questions. We will provide a list of topics on March 1 and, if you wish to write an essay, **you must let us know in writing which one you propose to write by March 8.** We will let you know if you may proceed by **March 11. The paper is due at 9 a.m. on the morning of the midterm (March 21).** If you do not submit by that time, you should take the midterm exam, which starts at 9:30.

requirements

Final (40% of course grade) [May 15]

Modeled on the midterm, this three-hour exam will ask you to answer five essay questions, at least three of which will be on the study guide. As with the midterm, there will be short-answer questions as well. The final will cover the entire syllabus, but its emphasis will be on the second half of the semester.

Other

From time to time we will give brief homework exercises to be discussed in class. No grade will be assigned for class participation as such, but such exercises and contribution to discussions in general will be taken into account when we assess the grade for class participation.

Syllabus

Edit

Note: Required readings not linked to in this page will be in the reader.

WEEK 1

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

24 Jan: Talking About Information

WEEK 2

29 Jan: Technological Determinism

Required Reading

- McLuhan, Marshall. 1964. "Preface to third printing," "Introduction," & "The Medium is the Message," in *Understanding Media*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Williams, Raymond. 1974. "The Technology and The Society" (chapter 1) & "The Technology as Cause" (section c in Ch 5), pp 1-26 & 126-128 in *Television and Cultural Form*. New York: Schocken Books.

31 Jan: First Technologies: Writing

Required Readings

- 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.
- Drucker, Johanna, 1999, "The Alphabet," in David Crowley, ed. *Communication in History: Technology, Culture, Society*. Allyn & Bacon. Pp. 46-55.

syllabus

syllabus links

5 Feb: Cultural Effects of Writing

Required Readings

- Havelock, Eric, "The Greek Legacy," in David Crowley, ed. *Communication in History: Technology, Culture, Society*. Allyn & Bacon. Pp. 55-62.
- Gough, Kathleen. 1968. Implications of literacy in traditional China and India. In Goody, Jack (ed.). *Literacy in Traditional Societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 44-56.

Additional Materials

- Scribner, Silvia and Michael Cole. 1988. "Unpackaging Literacy." at *Social Science Information*, 17, 1 (1978)



- Havelock, Eric, "The Greek Legacy," in David Crowley, ed. *Communication in History: Technology, Culture, Society*. Allyn & Bacon. Pp. 55-62.

reader

reader

Copy Central
2576 Bancroft



The reader may not be paginated correctly.

- Scribner, Silvia and Michael Cole. 1988. "Unpackaging Literacy." at *Social Science Information*, 17, 1 (1978)

off-campus & on-line

UC Berkeley Library Proxy

Welcome to the library proxy.

- **Important:** your browser must be configured to [accept all cookies](#).
- If the first request you make that's handled by the proxy is to a secure (https) URL, you will receive an error. Please login to the proxy by requesting another resource, like [oed.com](#).
- Consult the [proxy FAQ](#) for more information.

Please login with your OskiCat Patron/PIN Login, or via CalNet.

Patron / PIN Login

Library/Cal
1 Card
Number:
(example: 123456789 or L12345678)

Your PIN
(password):
[Forgot your PIN or don't have a PIN?](#)
[What's this?](#)

Email
address:
Email address associated with your library patron
account. If you're not sure what this is, log into [My
Oskicat](#) and use the address displayed there.

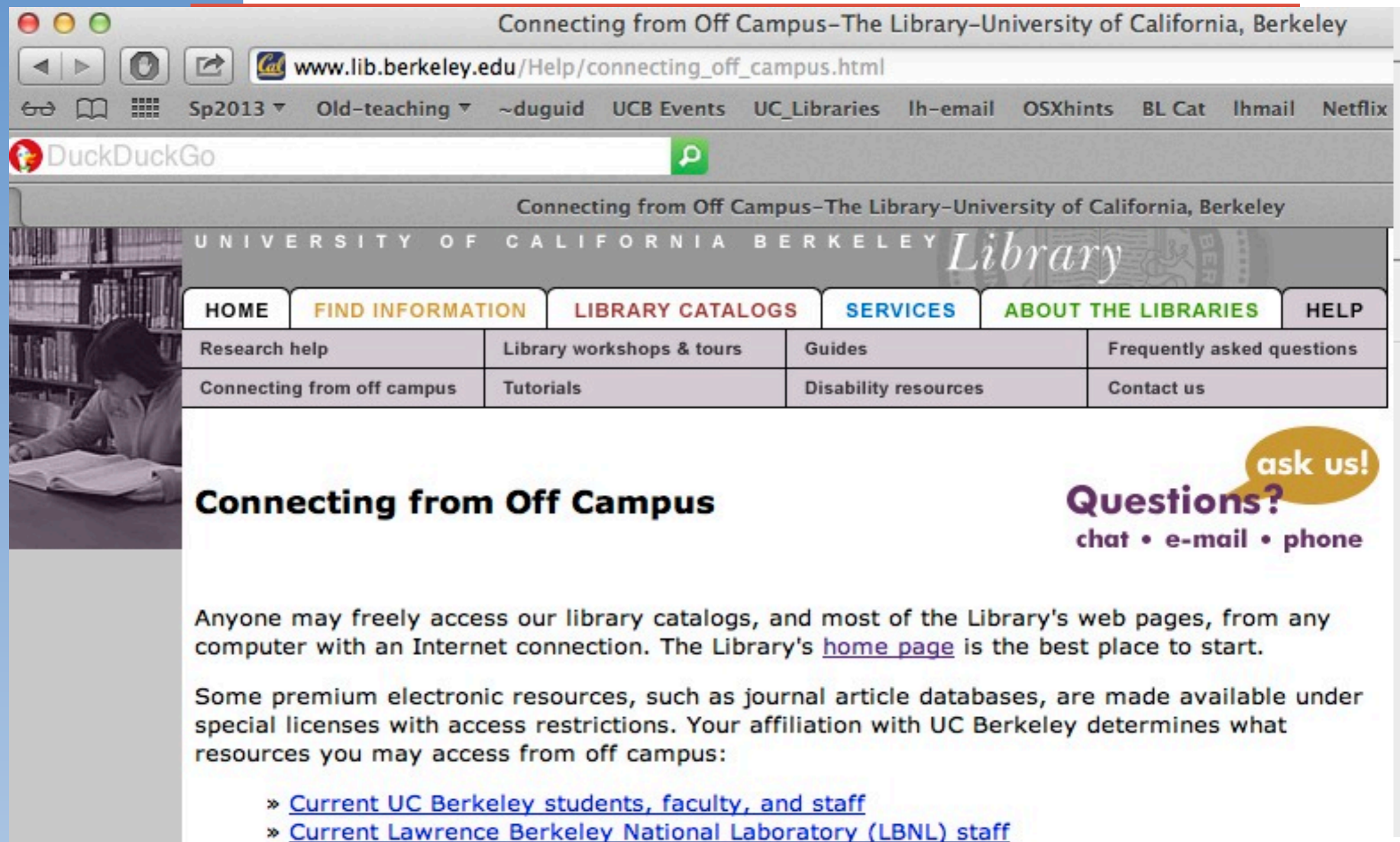
Login

[UC Berkeley CalNet Login](#)

- Faculty, students, staff
- Your [CalNet ID and passphrase](#) are required
- Problems logging in with CalNet? Please use the **Patron/PIN login** method.

- Scribner, Silvia and Michael Cole. 1988. "Unpackaging Literacy." at *Social Science Information*, 17, 1 (1978)

off-campus & on-line



Connecting from Off Campus–The Library–University of California, Berkeley

www.lib.berkeley.edu/Help/connecting_off_campus.html

Sp2013 ▾ Old-teaching ▾ ~duguid UCB Events UC_Libraries lh-email OSXhints BL Cat lhmail Netflix

DuckDuckGo

Connecting from Off Campus–The Library–University of California, Berkeley

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY *Library*

HOME	FIND INFORMATION	LIBRARY CATALOGS	SERVICES	ABOUT THE LIBRARIES	HELP
Research help	Library workshops & tours	Guides	Frequently asked questions		
Connecting from off campus	Tutorials	Disability resources	Contact us		

Connecting from Off Campus

Questions? ask us!
chat • e-mail • phone

Anyone may freely access our library catalogs, and most of the Library's web pages, from any computer with an Internet connection. The Library's [home page](#) is the best place to start.

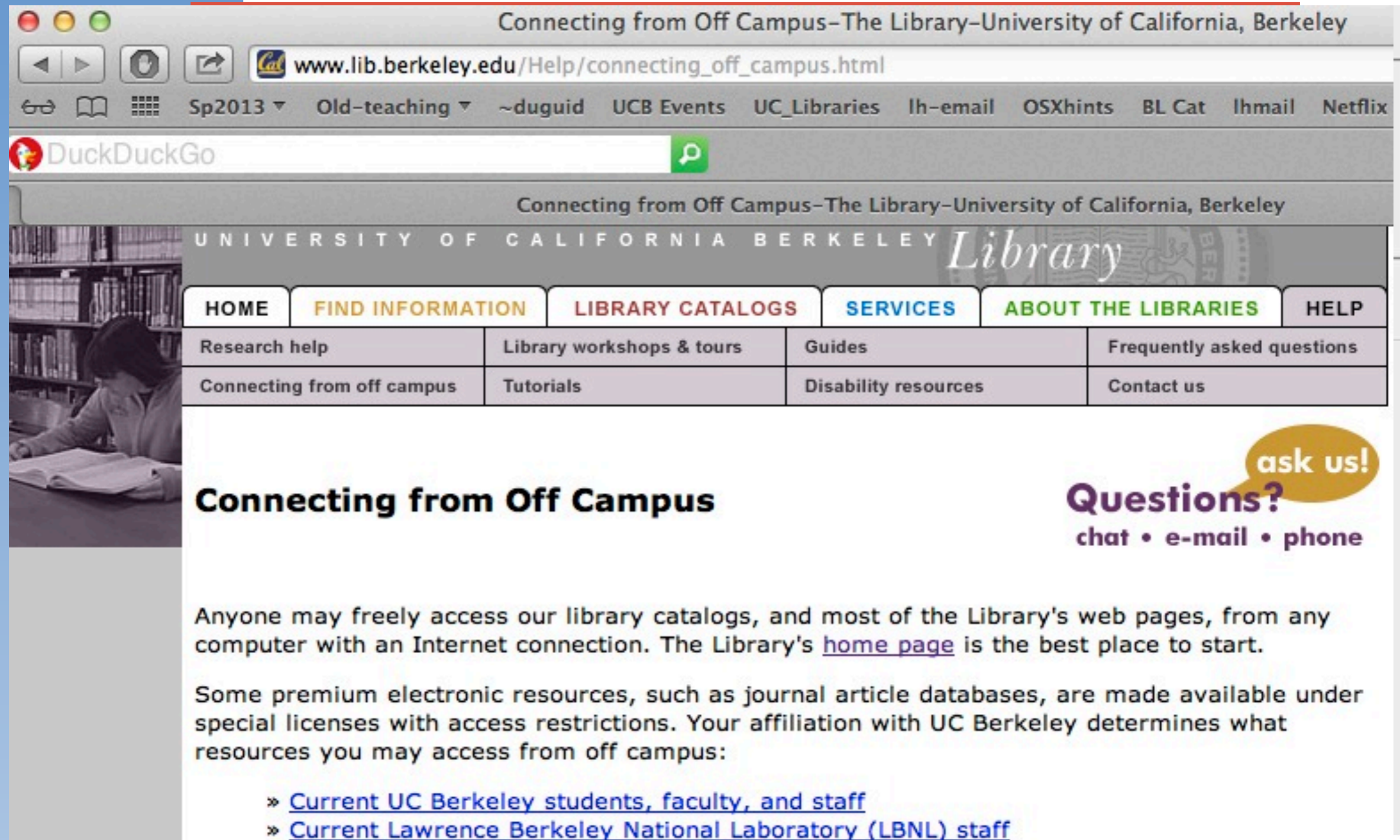
Some premium electronic resources, such as journal article databases, are made available under special licenses with access restrictions. Your affiliation with UC Berkeley determines what resources you may access from off campus:

- » [Current UC Berkeley students, faculty, and staff](#)
- » [Current Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory \(LBNL\) staff](#)

www.lib.berkeley.edu/Help/connecting_off_campus.html

- Scribner, Silvia and Michael Cole. 1988. "Unpackaging Literacy." at *Social Science Information*, 17, 1 (1978)

off-campus & on-line



Connecting from Off Campus-The Library-University of California, Berkeley

www.lib.berkeley.edu/Help/connecting_off_campus.html

Sp2013 Old-teaching ~duguid UCB Events UC_Libraries lh-email OSXhints BL Cat lhmail Netflix

DuckDuckGo

Connecting from Off Campus-The Library-University of California, Berkeley

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY *Library*

HOME	FIND INFORMATION	LIBRARY CATALOGS	SERVICES	ABOUT THE LIBRARIES	HELP
Research help	Library workshops & tours	Guides	Frequently asked questions		
Connecting from off campus	Tutorials	Disability resources	Contact us		

Connecting from Off Campus

ask us!

Questions?

chat • e-mail • phone

Anyone may freely access our library catalogs, and most of the Library's web pages, from any computer with an Internet connection. The Library's [home page](#) is the best place to start.

Some premium electronic resources, such as journal article databases, are made available under special licenses with access restrictions. Your affiliation with UC Berkeley determines what resources you may access from off campus:

- » [Current UC Berkeley students, faculty, and staff](#)
- » [Current Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory \(LBNL\) staff](#)



off-line & on campus

library tour

week 3

Tuesday

2/5: 11-12:30

2/5: 3- 4:30

Wednesday

2/6: 10 -11:30

Thursday

2/7: 11-12:30

2/7: 3 - 4:30

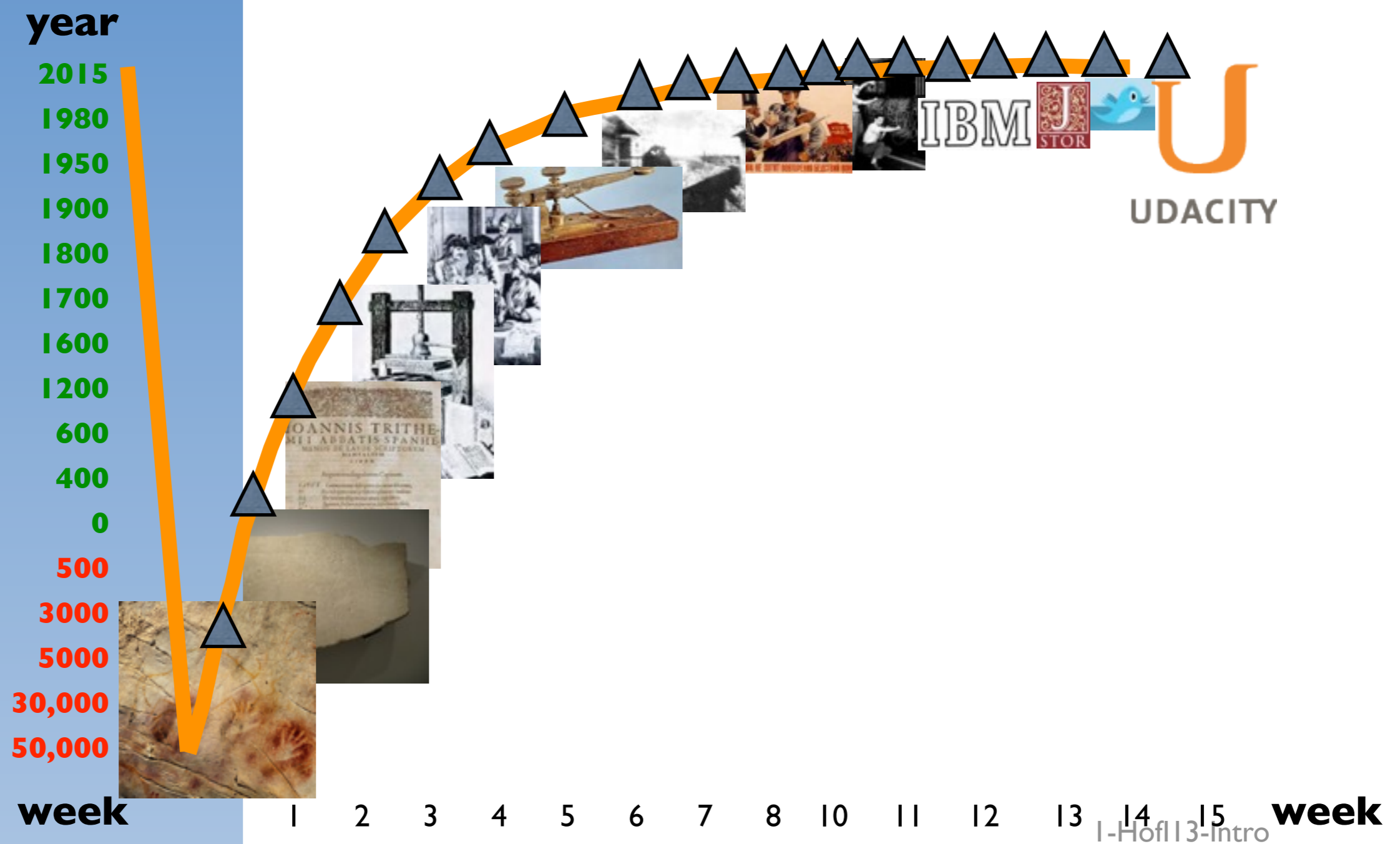
signup (fifteen per session)

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Ask5QVp5ON4SdGQ5dDhPRk9kUTRuLW1GS0IVZDk0SUE)

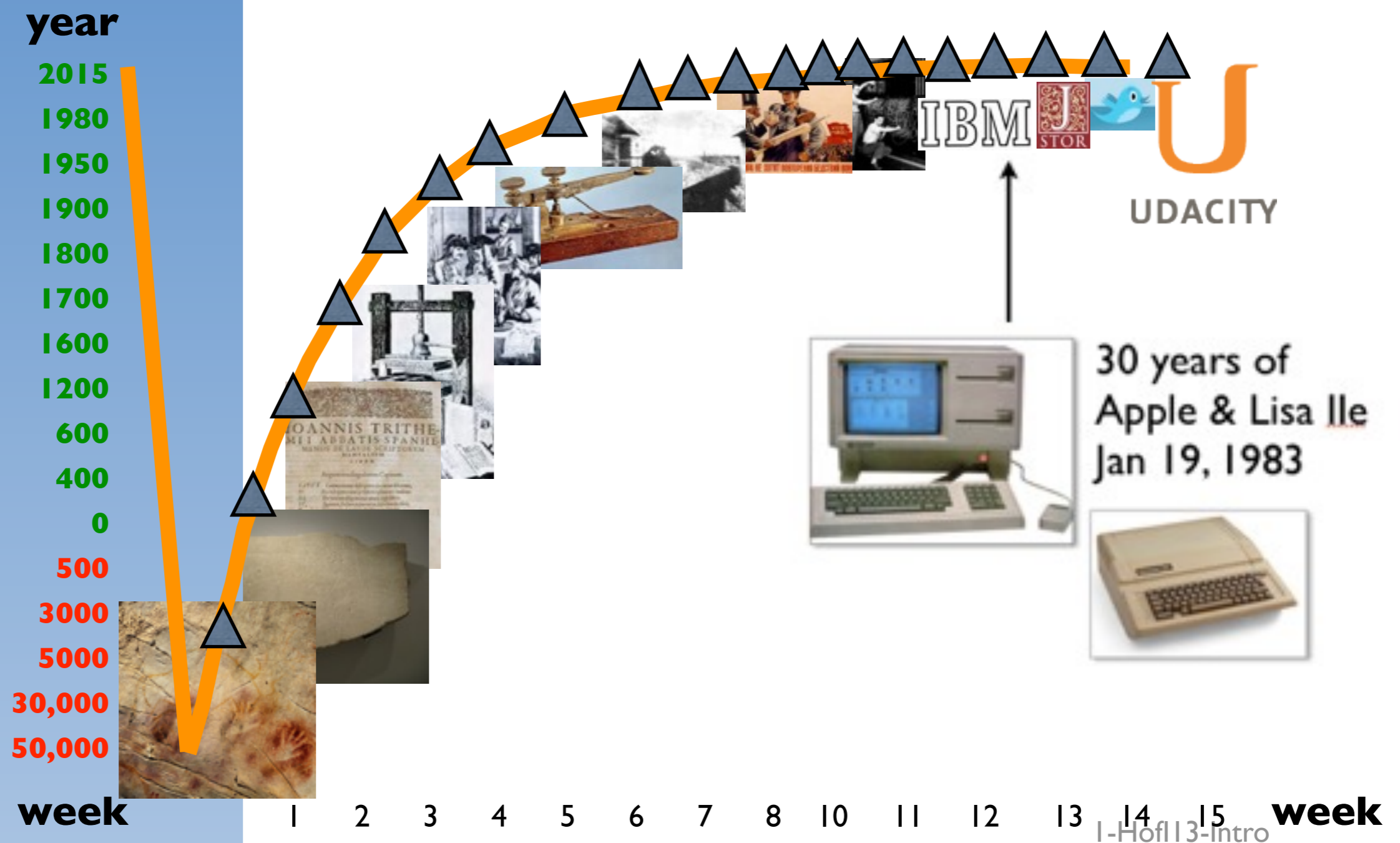
[key=0Ask5QVp5ON4SdGQ5dDhPRk9kUTRuLW1GS0IVZDk0SUE](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Ask5QVp5ON4SdGQ5dDhPRk9kUTRuLW1GS0IVZDk0SUE)



where are we going?



where are we going?



Week 1

22 Jan: why "history of information"

24 Jan: the "age of information"

Week 2

29 Jan: determinism

31 Jan: writing systems

Week 3

5 Feb: cultural effects of writing

7 Feb: manuscript culture

Week 4

12 Feb: print "revolution"

14 Feb: scientific "revolution"

Week 5

19 Feb: emergence of public sphere

21 Feb: reference books ...

Week 6

26 Feb: rise of literacy ...

28 Feb: 19th unnoticed revolutions

Week 7

5 March: communications "revolution"

7 March: telegraph in China

Week 8

13 March: literacy & 19th century public sphere

14 March: technologies of the image

Week 9

19 March: politics & propaganda

21 March: M I D T E R M

Week 11

2 April: information as property

4 April: visualizing information

Week 12

9 April: computer "revolution"

11 April: broadcast

Week 13

16 April: storage and search

18 April: advent of internet

Week 14

23 April: social implications of the internet (1)

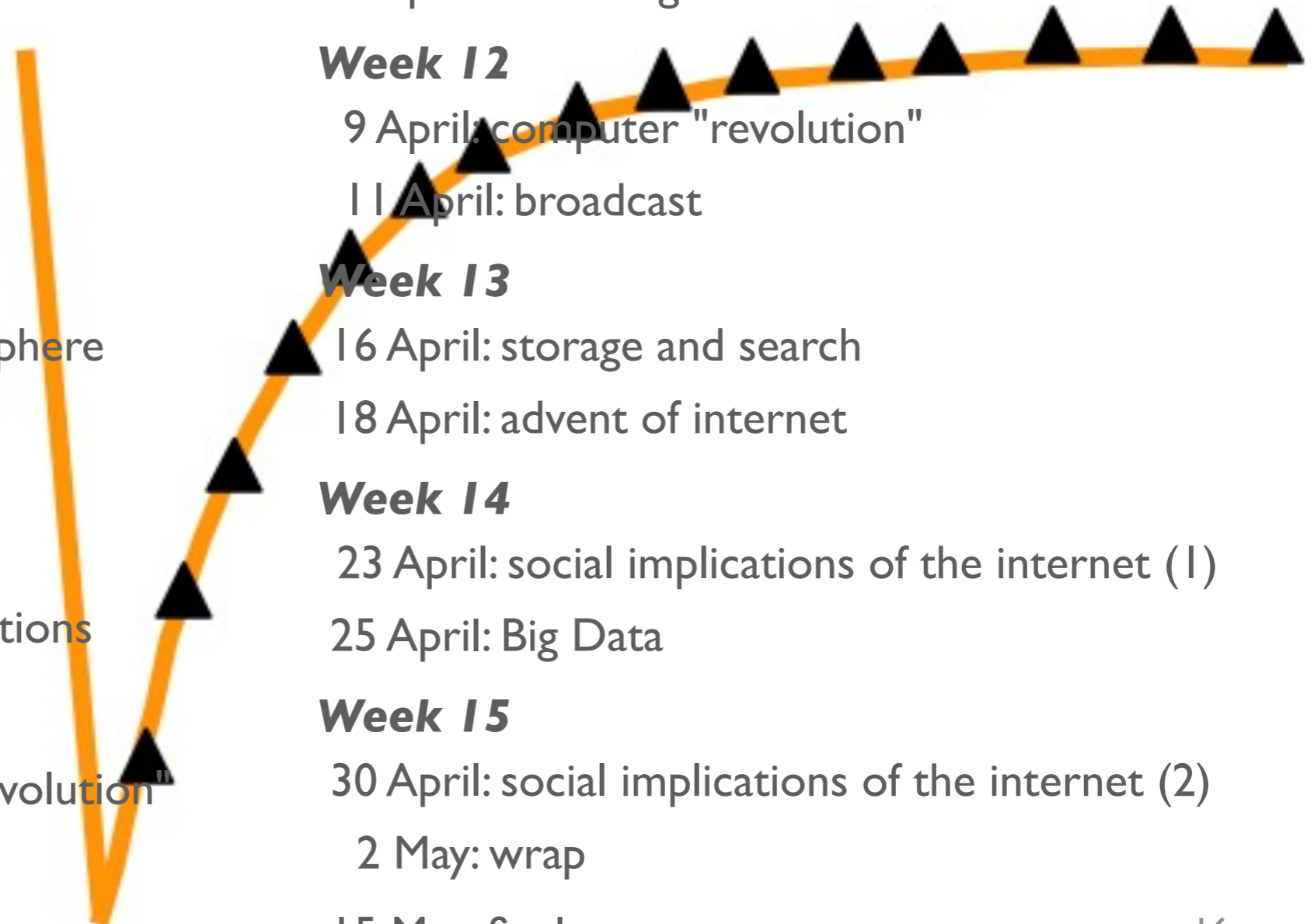
25 April: Big Data

Week 15

30 April: social implications of the internet (2)

2 May: wrap

15 May: final



feedback

subject matter

feedback

subject matter

What didn't you like about this course?

feedback

subject matter

What didn't you like about this course?

"history"

feedback

subject matter

What didn't you like about this course?

"history"

"Too much English"

feedback

subject matter

What didn't you like about this course?

"history"

"Too much English"

"I like the examples from England"

feedback

subject matter

What didn't you like about this course?

"history"

"Too much English"

"I like the examples from England"

"Focus more on Silicon Valley, and the second half of the course"

feedback

readings

"shorter readings. I always put them off until the test, but if they were more concise I would do them before class"

"I want easier reading materials"

"Add more scandalous material"

feedback

assignments

"less assignments"

"perhaps more assignments"

"don't make homework be done Sunday
night"

"Friday would be better"

"assignments didn't take long to
complete"

feedback

discussion

13. What changes, if any, would you suggest if the course is offered again?

Please write legibly and with enough pressure that your words will scan well.

↳ more group discussion.

feedback

discussion

13. What changes, if any, would you suggest if the course is offered again?

Please write legibly and with enough pressure that your words will scan well.

↳ more group discussion.

ospace forums?

feedback

exams

"I would like exams to be less specific"

"emphasize important points"

feedback

slides

"not enough notes on slides"

attendance

feedback

slides

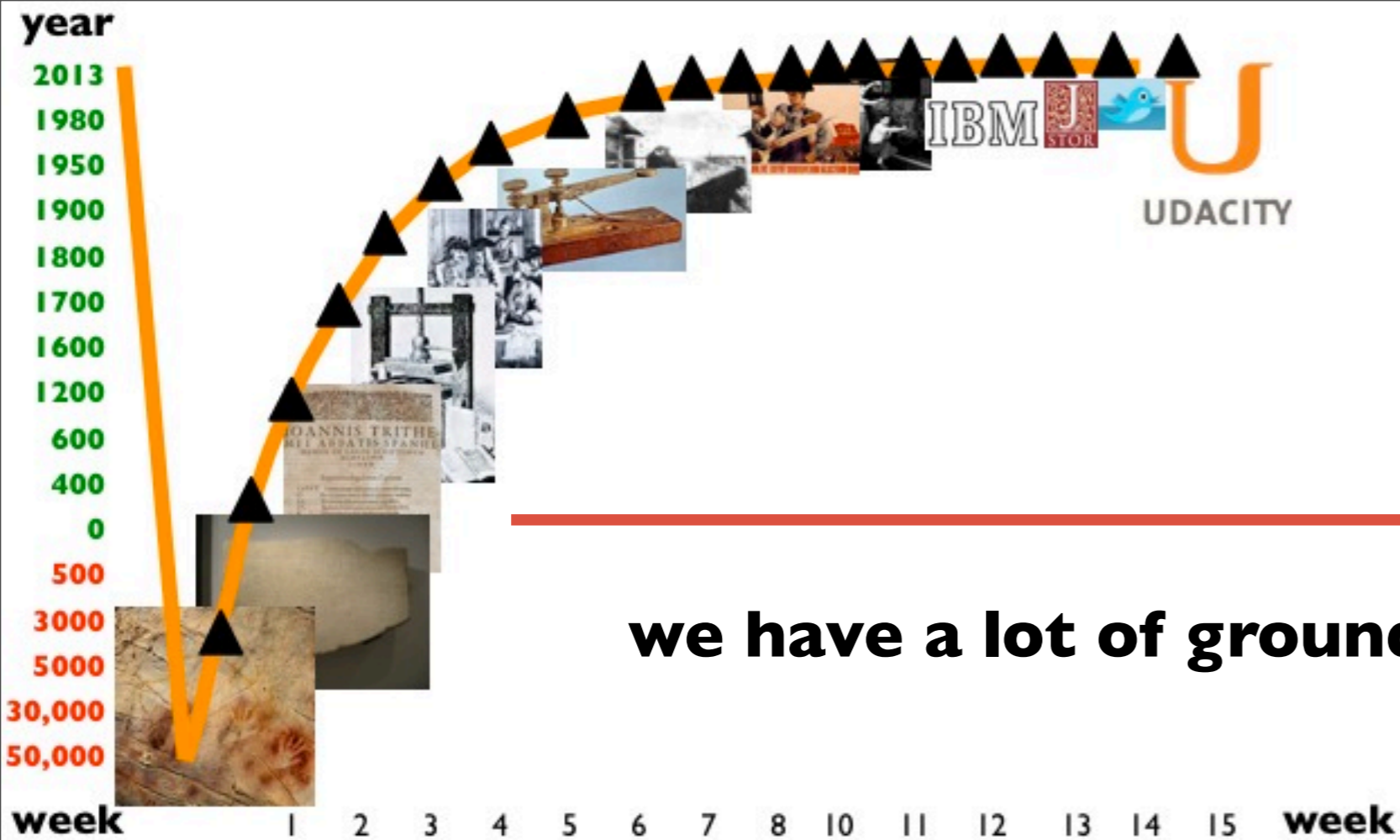
"not enough notes on slides"

attendance

Newcastle University students protest biometric scanner move

3:11pm Friday 14th December 2012 in News

UNIVERSITY students may have to scan their fingerprints in future - to prove they are not bunking off lectures.



leaving early

we have a lot of ground to cover

if you must leave early

leave quietly and from the back of the room

<https://politicsofpiracy.wordpress.com>

Politics of Digital Piracy

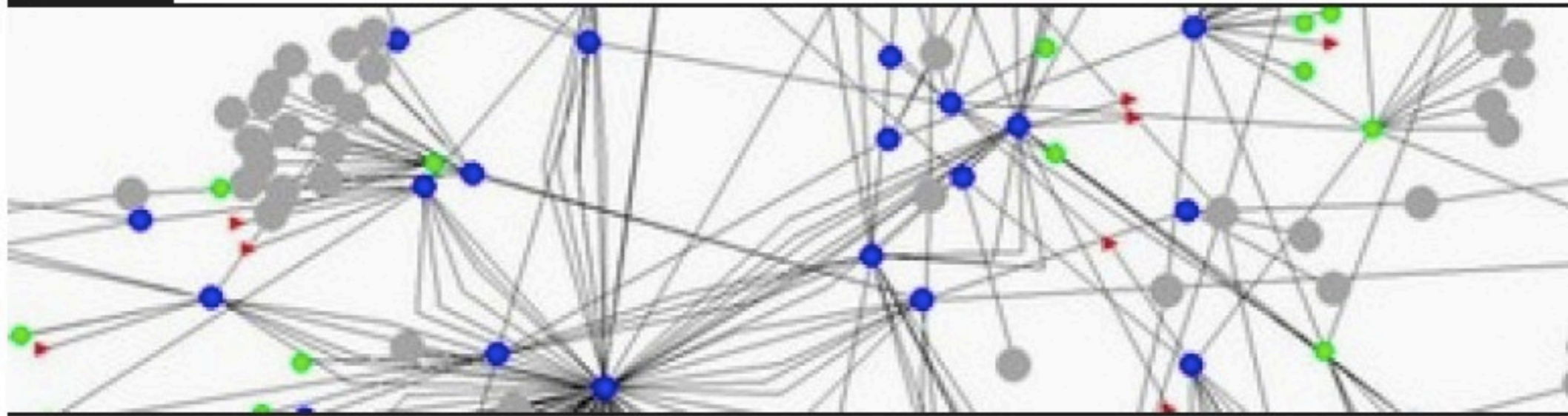
rivals

HOME

ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS DESCRIPTION

SYLLABUS



JANUARY 12, 2013 · 4:48 PM

BitTorrent's Potential Compensation for Pirate Bay's Rough Waters

Recent Posts

- [BitTorrent's Potential Compensation for Pirate Bay's Rough Waters](#)
- [UC Berkeley ranked #36 for University with most BitTorrent Users](#)

Join **FREE CULTURE BERKELEY**

Free Culture Berkeley is a chapter of a national student movement exploring the nature of innovation in the context of American copyright law and media distribution. We are advocates of:

- Fair Use: free speech trumps exclusive rights;
- Free Software: free as in freedom;
- Open Access: knowledge is for all.

and ...

Are you interested in policies surrounding:

- Open Source (Coding)
- Digital Remixing/Sampling (music/video)
- Open Access (scientific and medical research)
- Public Sector/ Government Information?

CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR PEOPLE
INTERESTED IN POSITIONS OF
LEADERSHIP!

Go To:

FREECULTUREBERKELEY.ORG
RDPRESS.COM

coming up ...

Jan 24:
the "age of information"

Jan 29:
technological determinism

Jan 31:
the first technologies of information:
writing systems

Feb 5 :
cultural effects of writing