Instructors: Julie Carr and Joel Swanson  
Course Number: IAWP 6800 / ENGL 5549  
Tuesdays 2–4:30 p.m. / ATLAS 105

This seminar explores the relationships among language, materiality, and technology in the works of artists who employ text and writers who work in the visual from the nineteenth century to the present. Equal parts looking, reading, thinking, and making, this course is designed to introduce students to work that straddles the line between art and writing, whether existing primarily on page, screen, or in physical space. We will read linguist theory relevant to our topic as well as art and literary criticism that take up issues of textual materiality. Students will be asked to research the field, present their research, and create works of their own in a wide range of media.

Some twenty and twenty-first century artists we will look at include Glenn Ligon, Susan Howe, Fionna Banner, Young Hae Chang, bp Nichol, Adrian Piper, Theresa Cha, Derek Beaulieu, Tom Philips and others. We will also examine earlier works by artists such as William Blake, William Morris, Mallarmé, and Apollinaire. Movements we will explore include futurism, concrete poetry, conceptual art and poetry, pop art, and the “linguistic turn,” among others.