Fundamental to all typographic design is the interplay between letter form and background. Every letter form defines a particular counter form. Form and counter form are reciprocal values and completely interdependent and integral to a letter’s completeness as a design.

The counter form is not just what’s left over in the background. The counter form is a new entity that emerges through interaction with the form. Typically these counter forms are either geometric or organic in quality depending on the structure or style of the letter. An awareness of this inter-relationship of form and counter form is essential in typographic design.

In unit 5 you are to visually isolate and define the counter forms for a selection of letters. In unit 6 you will be doing the same but will use two letters, on a baseline, as part of a series of combination studies exploring the counter form between two letters. In both parts, black and white must be controlled so that just the counter forms are clearly isolated and defined. This will take some adjusting to the drawings. Use two landscaped pages with the standard running head at the top.

Work with a variety of serif and sans serif families. Bold letters, condensed letters and oblique letters work best to begin. Point sizes are all 72pt. Use a 12 pt version of the letter above each example to help identify the letter you are abstracting. Follow format placement.

Begin by selecting about half serif and half sans serif letters to draft for your examples.

Due next class- 8 examples on the computer.

Using the computer:
1. Type 72pt. letter/ create outline/ release compound paths
2. Draw box tangent to letter, it must touch where possible. You will have to adjust later where points do not touch.
3. Send box to back. Select all/ use pathfinder "divide". With everything selected use "ungroup" command.
4. Select interior counter forms and fill with white.
5. After 'divide', you will have to adjust the tangent points and overall form to find the perfect ratio of counter form.
6. Optically center each letter in box using a dotted line as shown on template: weight .5, dash .02, gap 2pt, cap "round".

Assignment: points 15