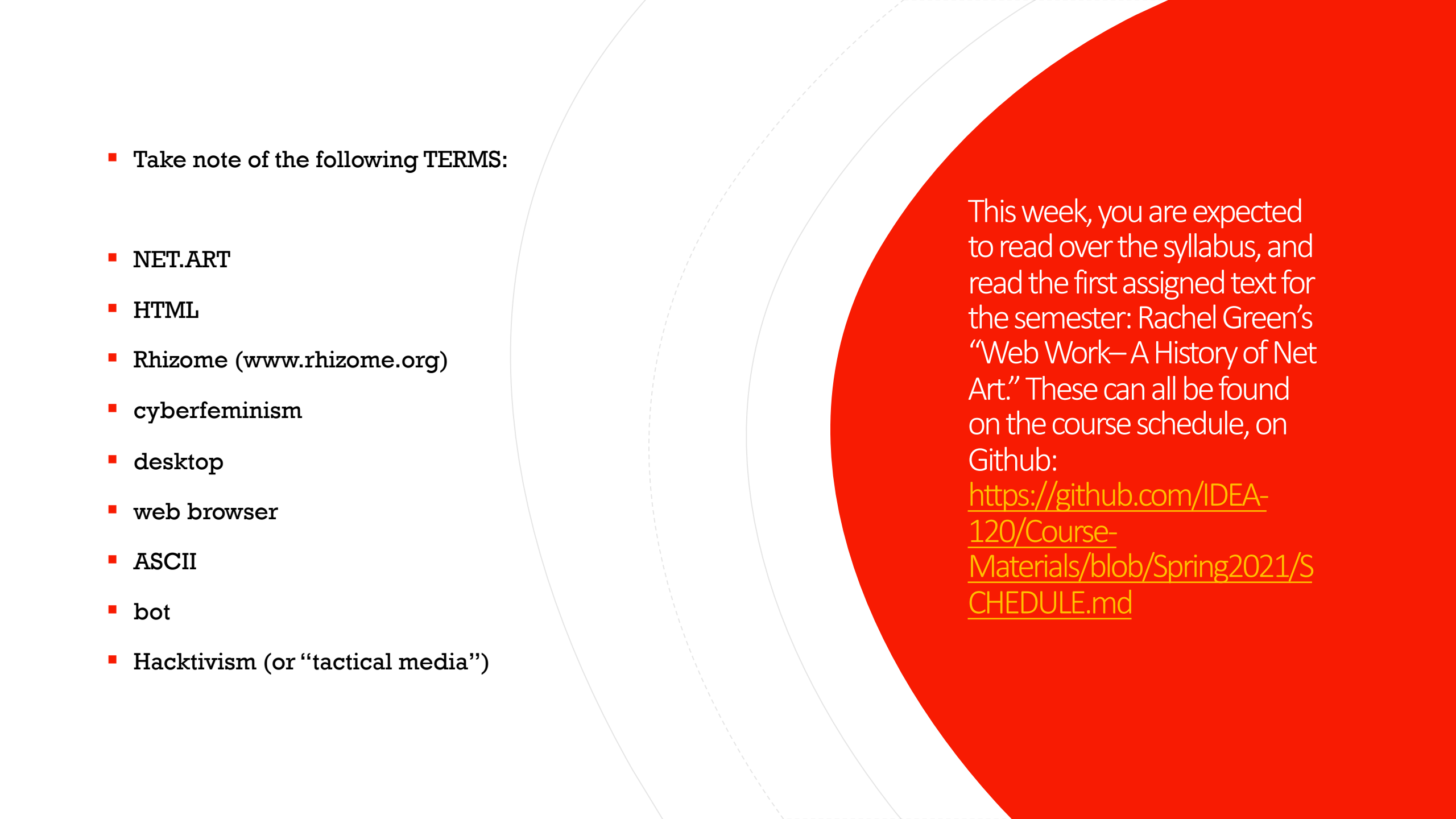# IDEA 120: Week 1

January 11, 2021: Course Introduction

I'm Dr. Tiffany Funk (but you can call me Tiffany). I'm Visiting Assistant Professor of IDEAS (Interdisciplinary Education in the Arts).

I have researched and written about many topics in digital media, including computer art, video games, and performance. I'm also an artist—I've made websites, video games and installations, and teach studio courses on these mediums.

Welcome to IDEAS 120: Digital Practices in Design and Art!

Each week I will post either a PowerPoint or video explaining important concepts and terms that will help you in your readings, assignments, and projects over the coming weeks.

- Take note of the following TERMS:

- NET.ART

- HTML

- Rhizome (www.rhizome.org)

- cyberfeminism

- desktop

- web browser

- ASCII

- bot

- Hacktivism (or "tactical media")

This week, you are expected to read over the syllabus, and read the first assigned text for the semester: Rachel Green's "Web Work— A History of Net Art." These can all be found on the course schedule, on Github: https://github.com/IDEA-120/Course-Materials/blob/Spring2021/SCHEDULE.md

People to take note of:

Vic Cosic

Slovenian net artist known for his ASCII film series (he rendered the porn film *Deep Throat* and Hitchcock's *The Birds* into ASCII characters)
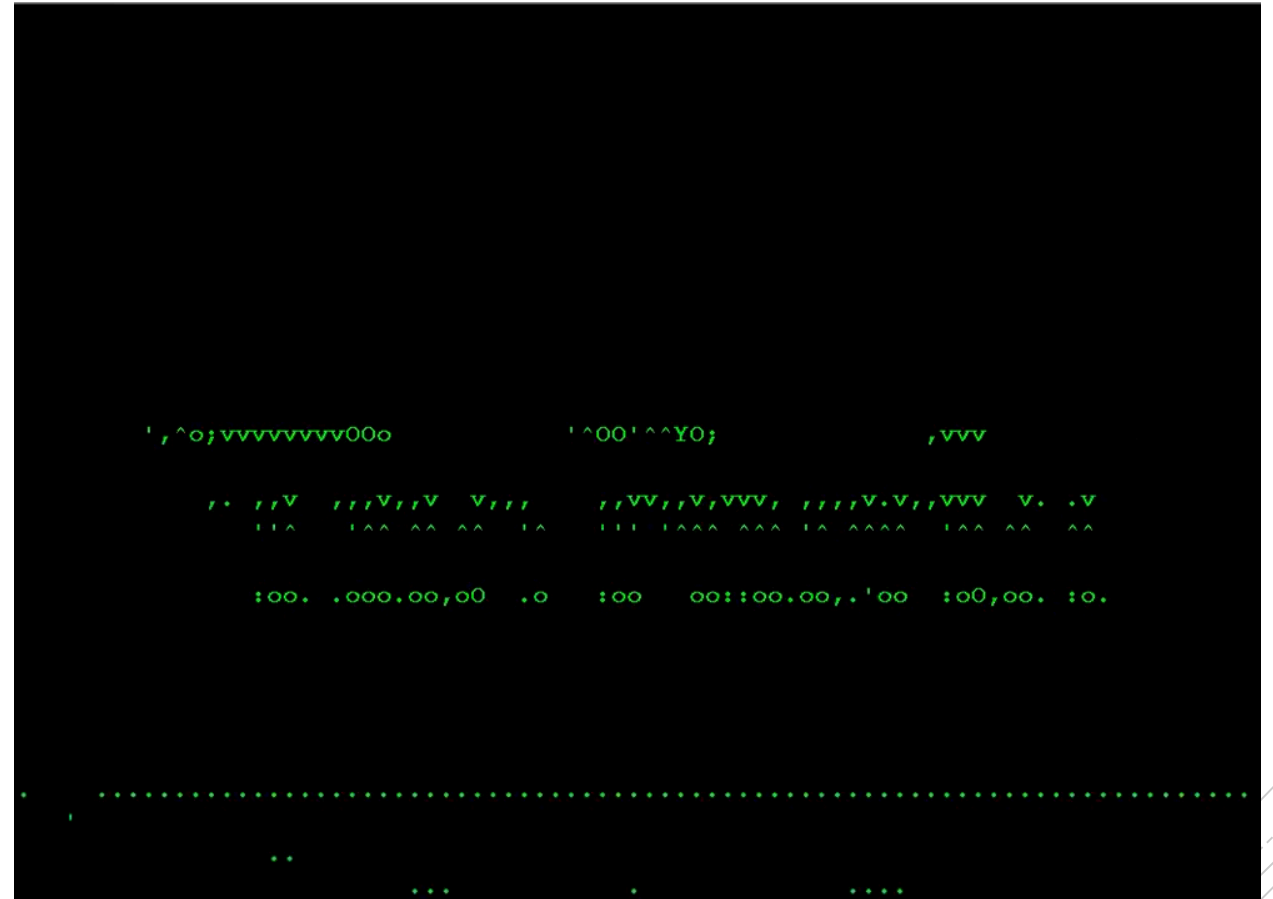
People to take note of:

JODI
(Dirk Paesmans
and Joan
Heemskerk)

The artist duo JODI creates work that often exposes the programming or remixes the familiar icons and symbols of the internet to make them strange and unfamiliar. It formed a "punk" protest of software capitalism and the immense amount of money invested in internet and application development.

JODI, *OSS*, 2000, website

Artworks to take note of:

Paul Garrin,
Name.Space,
1991

The logic of Name.Space was that if there were a more expansive set of names for websites, it would be more difficult for corporations or individuals to monopolize Web addresses. (keep in mind, the URL choices were fewer at this point; .com, .net, .co.uk, .edu, etc.)
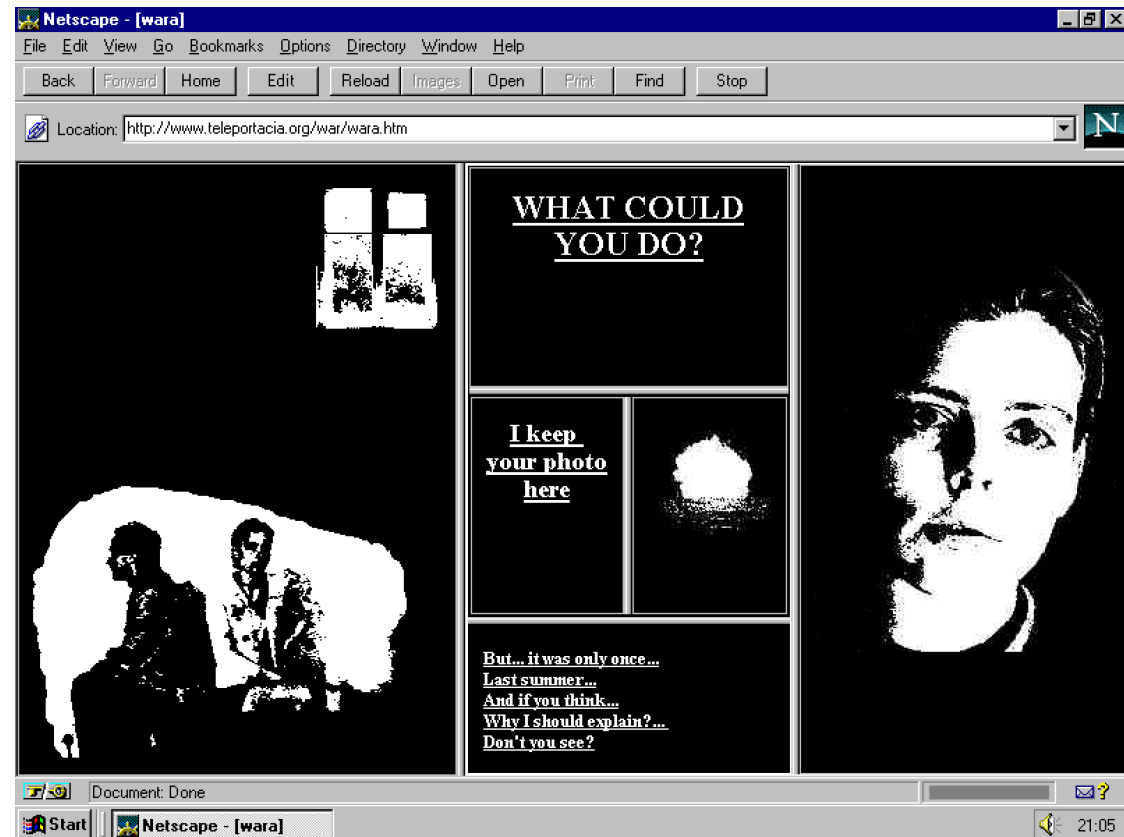
Artworks to take note of:

Olia Lialina, *My Boyfriend Came Back From the War*, 1996

https://anthology.rhizome.org/my-boyfriend-came-back-from-the-war

A filmic narrative of romance. It makes extensive use of "frame" programming, allowing users to populate their screens with frames subdividing into more frames, creating new combinations of text and images. It reimagines film space, but gives the "montage" control to the viewer.

Artworks to take note of:

Art show in which participants submitted screen shots of their CPU's desktop. Alexei Shulgin, the curator, reasoned that the desktop is a psychological space that performs as the user's "friend," through work and play.

Desktop Is (1997)
https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/library/cyber/mirapaul/121897mirapaul.html

Artworks to take note of:

I/O/D,
Web Stalker (1997)
https://v2.nl/archive/works/the-web-stalker

Alternative web browser that, instead of showing the web page as intended, would instead show all of the external links from any given HTML page.