

Title	Philosophies of design: the intricate relationships between 'nature - man - material'
Codes	M-SZ-E-301-FS-262701-10 / M-SZ-301-FS-262701-10 / B-SZ-401-FS-262701-10 / ER-MOME-MA-262701-10
Host	MA School
Location	Classroom

Basic info						
Course type	Credit	Contact hours	Student working hours	Unit type	Semester	Unit
seminar	5	36	114	elective	2026 fall	elective

Recommendation
This is a light introduction for design 'thinkers' and those concerned with questions of future environment, materiality, and society.

Short description
In this course the students are familiarised with the branch of design studies – Philosophy of Design. The students will be facilitated thought processes associated with 'making things' and introduced to different philosophies guiding design and art disciplines

Teachers			
Name	Contact information	Short BIO	Office hours

Dr. Karina Vissonova	vissonova@icloud.com vissonova.karina@teach.mome.hu +36309103312	Karina Vissonova is a researcher and educator focused on sustainability, design philosophy, and the evolution of design education. Founder of the non-profit Institute of Advanced Design Studies, she directs research into futures sustainable societies and education. Karina is a member of the World Futures Studies Federation.	Upon request
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Course scheduling			
Course format			Weekly class appointments
Regular classes			We 16:40-18:50
Details of each session’s type and schedule, showing the teacher’s role			
Week	Date	Weekly educational content	Studio/workshop
1	Sep 9/26	Introduction to the course, what and how will learn, methods, students’ introductions. Opening futures-thinking workshop "Futures wheel"	classroom
2	Sep 16/26	Introduction lecture to Philosophy of Design - interactive discussions.	classroom
3	Sep 23/26	Villem Flusser philosophy and its applications in sustainable design conceptions	classroom
4	Sep 30/26	Delft school of thought: 1) Artefacts don't act, humans do. Discussion.	classroom
5	Oct 7/26	Delft school of thought: 1) Artefacts don't act, humans do. Discussion.	classroom
6	-	course week	-
7	Oct 21/26	Delft school of thought continued: Questions of function and instrumentality/ relation to sustainability. Side effects theory. Discussion	classroom
8	Oct 28/26	Latourian (Paris) school of thought	classroom

9	Nov 4/26	New materialists – Barad's interconnected quantum worlds and agential realism, Guerlac's livingness and AI. Discussions.	classroom
10	Nov 11/26	New new materialists continued – different ways of perceiving the world – new materialism or ancient indigenous wisdoms (reading narratives from Yunkaporta 2023)	classroom
11	Nov 18/26	Workshop: (in student pairs) find an object, research and present it from 'materialist' perspective	classroom
12	Nov 25/26	Workshop: (in student pairs) find an object, research and present it from 'new materialist' perspective	classroom
13	Dec 2/26	Review session and closing discussions	classroom
14	-		
15	-		

Course completion requirements, prerequisites, and evaluation				
Students 'duties				
Requirements, assignments	Form of evaluation	Evaluation criteria	Deadline	% in evaluation
Reading assignments over semester	assessment by teacher	interpretation of readings	continuous	50%
Selected paper review	Sent in essay	research quality 70%, writing 30%	December, date to be given in class	50%
General requirements				
active participation				

Course materials and literature
Mandatory literature

- Galle, P., & Kroes, P., Science and design: Identical twins?, Design Studies (2014), http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.destud.2013.12.002 - Vissonova, K. Effects of design and sustainable design of technical artefacts. In P. E. Vermaas & S. Vial (Eds.), Advancements in Philosophy of Design. Design Research Foundations, Springer. https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319733012. The Netherlands. (2018). Pages 435-439 and 445-448 (4.1 The Four Classes of Sustainable Design of Technical Artefacts). - Houkes, W., & Vermaas, P. E. (2002). Design and use as plans: An action-theoretical account. Design Studies, 23(3), 303–320. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0142-694X(01)00040-0 - Franssen, M. (2008). Design, use, and the physical and intentional aspects of technical artifacts. In P. E. Vermaas, P. Kroes, A. Light, & S. A. Moore (Eds.), Philosophy and design: From engineering to architecture (pp. 21–35). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4020-6591-0_2 - Latour, Bruno. "On actor-network theory: A few clarifications." (1996). http://www.bruno-latour.fr/sites/default/files/P-67%20ACTOR-NETWORK.pdf - OR Latour, Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory (Oxford, 2005) https://www.uni-weimar.de/kunst-und-gestaltung/wiki/images/Latour-introduction-to-ant-theory.pdf - Guerlac, S. (2021). Livingness, Information, and the Really Real. In Project Muse. Theory & Event, Volume 24, Number 1, January 2021, pp. 131-157. Published by Johns Hopkins University Press.
Course notes and presentations
Recommended literature
to be announced in class

Learning outcomes	
Knowledge	Intermediate level to the field of Philosophy of Design
Skills	Engage in complex subjects and create a discourse about an object in social (or larger) contexts. Analyse large(r) problem frames.
Attitude	access rhizome thinking patterns (non-reductive thinking)
Autonomy and Responsibility	develop autonomous, critical opinion on intellectual issues + represent these viewpoints responsibly in discussion

Exemption
No exemption may be granted from participation in, or completion of, the course.

Curricular connections

Unit	Parallel courses	Course proportion in unit
Electives	-	100%
Course prerequisites	Is it available as an elective?	If elective, specific prerequisites
-	Yes	-

Guidelines and rules for the use of artificial intelligence in the course
General regulations: According to the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design's Artificial Intelligence and Plagiarism Policy.

Equipment and materials needed from TechPark	Does TechPark provide this?
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Other information, comments
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