

Name	Theoretical lecture and reading seminar - Future Sustainable Societies
Codes	M-AE-E-201-A
Host	MA School
Location	Classroom / Studio or workshop

Course info			Subject info			
Course Type	Contact hours	Home study hours	Comprehensive Subject	Subject type	Semester	Subject credit value
Seminar	36	114	MA Theoretical lecture and reading seminar	Lecture	1-2	5

Recommendation
Who is the course intended for, and why is it relevant to them? A summary of no more than 3 sentences. This course is designed for MA students in art, design, and architecture who want to develop futures literacy and engage with sustainable social transitions. It is relevant to them because it builds creative and critical capacities needed to imagine and shape sustainable futures. Through advanced futures thinking tools, students can better navigate complex societal and environmental changes.

Short description
A description of the course's objectives, activities, and structure in one paragraph. The course aims to guide students in shifting from sustainable product design toward sustainable life design by exploring alternative approaches to wellbeing. It combines theoretical analysis of sustainability and societal change with practical workshops using Transition Design, Speculative Design, and Futures Studies methods. Through these activities, students will critically examine existing frameworks, imagine diverse futures of sustainability, and design lifestyles adapted to emerging economic and environmental contexts.

Teachers				
Name	Contact information	Teaching hours	Short BIO	Open hours
Teacher 1	vissonova@icloud.com	3	Karina Vissonova is a design philosopher, researcher, and educator whose work focuses on future material wellbeing, sustainable societies, and the evolution of design education. She is the founding director of the Advanced Design Studies Institute in Budapest. Holding a PhD in Design with a specialisation in philosophy of design and sustainability, she is also a member of the World Futures Studies Federation and an active author in speculative design and futures studies.	Available at request.
Teacher 2				

Course scheduling			
Course format		Weekly class appointments	
E.g. group and individual consultations according to a pre-announced schedule.			
Details of each session's type and schedule, showing the teacher's role			
Week	Date	Weekly educational content	Studio/workshop
1	10 Sept.	Introduction to the course, what and how will learn, methods, assessment and exam;/ The Futures Wheel of Sustainable Societies workshop.	studio & workshop
2	17 Sept.	Sustainability 0.1 – contemporary sustainability landscape lecture, discussions based on the assignment.	studio
3	24 Sept.	Consumer Capitalism lecture and discussions.	studio

4	1 Oct.	"Sufficiency" Principles lecture and discussions.	studio
5	8 Oct.	Wellbeing lecture and discussions inspired by Localisation movements, alternative lifestyles, indigenous movements.	studio
6	22 Oct.	Speculative Design and design fiction lecture	studio
7	29 Oct.	Transition Design lecture/ Scenario making and backcasting workshop 1	workshop
8	5 Nov.	Transition Design or Speculative approach (group choice): Scenario making or backcasting workshop 2	workshop
9	12 Nov.	Transition Design or Speculative approach (group choice): Scenario making or backcasting workshop 3	workshop
10	19 Nov.	Transition Design or Speculative approach (group choice): Scenario making or backcasting workshop 4	workshop
11	26 Nov.	Creative writing tips and group work presentations	studio
12	3 Dec.	Short story presentations and review session	studio
13			
14			
15			

Course completion requirements, prerequisites, and evaluation				
Students 'duties				
Requirements, assignments	Form of evaluation	Evaluation criteria	Deadline	% in evaluation
1. Class attendance	Attendance sheet	Maximum number of absences: 3	each lesson	Individual engagement and class participation 30%
2. Assignment completion: 8 assignments (weeks 2 - 10)	Individually or in groups prepared reviews of theoretical materials for discussions, or reviews of materials sourced from podcasts or video materials.	Evaluation criteria: #1 Individual engagement and group work contributions. #2 research competency and assignment presentation competencies	each lesson	research competency and assignment completion, contributions in class discussions 40%

3. The students submit a short fictional story (1000 words (EN/HU) as the final assignment where they project their ideas of a future scenario. Creative writing tips will be offered during the course.	The assessment is based on the student's ability to present critical as well as future oriented thinking, and capacity to analyse and apply the course materials.	Submission	last lesson	final presentation 30%
General requirements				
e.g. eligibility criteria for the exam, free-form description				
Weekly group and individual assignments for training analytical thinking and research capacities. Preparations for discussing learnt materials in the sessions - co-creation of knowledge.				

Course materials and literature
Mandatory literature
TBA
Course notes and presentations
Recommended literature
TBA

Learning outcomes	
Knowledge	The course is built on principles of research and discussions with facilitated class discussions. Weekly assignment (introduced in each week giving one week prep time). Each session contains a presentation of new knowledge, in lectures or workshops, integrated with collective discussions. The learning process places emphasis on dynamics of interactive participation, where students discuss subjects in groups, pairs or together in the class. Knowledge fields: Futures literacy and preparedness, introduction to foresight tools, imagination methods / Sustainability, new sustainable social and economy models / Value-based design, Transition Design, Speculative Design, design fiction

Skills	1. Design approaches: Students will develop the ability to explore and apply alternative approaches to design prioritising social values and community building, preparing them for working in transitioning societies. 2. Futures Literate: Students will obtain ability to think in futures as part of their creative process; recognise signals, and cultivate a future-oriented mindset capable of envisioning and creating equitable future societies. 3. Facilitation: Students will become adept at holding moderated discussions and debates on subjects rooted in ethics, values, and the promotion of social good. 4. Work in post-disciplinary environments: Students will be prepared for tackling multifaceted social problems and opportunities.
Attitude	Acquired agency in own futures building will create positive attitudes towards possible futures.
Autonomy and Responsibility	Students learn individually through reading materials and co-learn in group discussions and workshop settings. Students are responsible for contributing in class and in group work.

Exemption
No exemption may be granted from participation in or completion of the course. Exemption may be granted from completing certain tasks or attending specific sessions. Certain tasks may be replaced by equivalent activities. Full exemption may be granted The student must discuss the details of a full or partial exemption with the instructor and the programme lead.

Curricular connections		
Subject	Parallel courses	Course proportion in subject
Subject prerequisites	Special subject prerequisites	Is it available as an elective?
		Yes/No

Guidelines and rules for the use of artificial intelligence in the course
The use of artificial intelligence at the university is subject to the Artificial Intelligence and Plagiarism Policy of the Moholy-Nagy University of Arts.

Materials needed for the course	Who provides the materials?
Material requirement 1: Laptop/ tablet to access reading materials, Miro board, and perform personal research.	Student
Material requirement 2	Tech Park / Programme / Student / Other

Other information, comments
This course, and the activities carried out during it, fall under the scope of Section 6 (1) of the University's Intellectual Property Management Regulations, effective September 1, 2021. Accordingly, participating students will enter into an agreement with the University in line with Section 6 (3) of the Regulations, including the transfer of economic and usage rights of intellectual creations produced during the course to the University under the terms specified in the contract. Furthermore, the student is obligated to maintain full confidentiality regarding the entire course—especially concerning the subject of the course, the activities, the works, creations, and other results, as well as the circumstances of their creation—and may not disclose, publish, or make any information public, except as otherwise specified in a signed written agreement necessary for completing the course. Acceptance of these conditions is a prerequisite for enrolling in the course. By selecting the 'Course Registration' option, the student acknowledges awareness of these conditions and agrees to participate in the conclusion of the relevant agreement.