

Syllabus

Course title: Theory-based project development B / Future Sustainable Societies				
Course instructor(s), contact details: Dr. Karina Vissonova, vissonova@icloud.com +36309103312				
Code: M-AE-E-102-B	Curriculum (program/level): ESMA	Recommended semester: 2-3	Credit: 5	Number of class hours: 36 Student task hours: 114
Related codes:	Type: seminar/lecture	Can it be an elective course? No.	In case of an elective course what are the specific prerequisites:	
Course connections (prerequisites, parallels):				

Aims and principles of the course:

The aim of the course is to facilitate the students' learning in transition from sustainable product design to sustainable life design.

In this course, we will look at the multiple projections of sustainability in future societies and explore ways of designing lifestyles appropriated to new and emerging economic and environmental capacities. The focus will be on new and alternative ways of *designing for wellbeing*. We analyse theories and practices that have shaped the contemporary societies and learn the basics of sustainability and sustainable design theories. Based on these lessons, we will look at new and alternative approaches in design. We will envision transitioning from consumerism to new economies and social setups through design. And as a group, we will work towards new ways of conceiving design relevant in future sustainable societies.

Principles of the course:

1. Motivate to engage in understanding the different notions of sustainability from social, technological and philosophical (ethical and values) perspectives.
2. Train to hold moderated discussions and present complex topics rooted in values.
3. Facilitate learnings based in design theory and how to apply theory in practice.
4. Prepare in thinking in future oriented design and in philosophy of design.

Learning outcomes (professional and general competences to be developed):

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explore alternative approaches to design: Students will develop the ability to explore and apply alternative approaches to design prioritising social values and wellbeing, preparing them for working in transitioning societies.
2. Become future conscious: Students will obtain ability to think in futures as part of their creative process; and cultivate a future-oriented mindset capable of envisioning and designing for equitable future societies.
3. Become facilitators: Students will become adept at holding moderated discussions and debates on design 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.

Topics and themes to be covered in the course:

Contemporary sustainable design and its critiques: sessions weeks 1-3

Week 1A: introduction to the course, what and how will learn, methods, assessment and exam;/ The Futures Wheel of Sustainability workshop.

Week 2: Sustainability 0.1 and the 4 classes of Sustainable design lecture and discussions based on the assignment.

Week 3: Contemporary sustainable product design lecture and discussions based on the assignment.

Transitioning societies: sessions weeks 4-6

Week 4: Consumer Capitalism lecture and discussions.

Week 5: Is design democratic? lecture and discussions.

Week 6: Context change and alternative design approaches lecture and discussions.

Design for Transitioning societies: sessions weeks 7-9

Week 7: Communities, societies and future of designing.

Week 8: Transition Design lecture/ workshop

Week 9: Localisation movements, alternative lifestyles, indigenous movements lecture and discussions.

Design for wellbeing: sessions weeks 10-12

Week 10: Design for Wellbeing lecture and discussion.

Week 11: Futures Wheel workshop (class new understanding of sustainability - imagining and designing futures)

Week 12: Review session and student presentations of their selected topic.

Specificities of process organisation / organisation of learning: 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.

Students' tasks and responsibilities:

Weekly group and individual assignments for training analytical thinking and research capacities. Preparations for discussing learnt materials in the sessions - co-creation of knowledge.

Learning environment: (e.g. classroom, studio, off-site, online, in-company placement, etc.) Blended learning environment: lectures, workshops, presentations, group discussions.

Assessment:

Student presentations. To finalise and graduate the course, the students have to present their selected course material and try to project their application into a future design scenario. 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.

Requirements to be met:

- Class attendance (maximum number of absences: 3)
- Altogether 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. Reviews in forms of presentations can be also submitted before class in case of absence.

Assessment criteria (what is taken into consideration in the assessment):

- Evaluation criteria #1 Individual engagement and group work contributions in discussions
- Evaluation criteria #2 research competency and assignment presentation competencies

How is the mark calculated (how is the result of each assessed requirement reflected in the final mark? {e.g. proportions, points, weights}):

- Individual engagement and class participation 30%
- research competency and assignment completion, contributions in class discussions 40%
- final presentation 30%

Required Literature: TBA

Recommended Literature: TBA

Other information:

The course will be discussions and debates based preparing the students for being able to associate and sympathise with multiple points of views and from several disciplinary backgrounds.

Recognition of knowledge acquired elsewhere/previously/validation principle:

No exemption from attending and completing the course.

Exemptions from the acquisition of certain competences and the completion of certain tasks may be granted.

Some tasks may be replaced by other activities.

Full exemption may be granted.

Out-of-class consultation times and location:

Consultations: Online as per request during weekdays. In person, on Thursdays before or after the class.

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