

Course programme

IF17161	<i>Design Theory and Methodology</i>		
ECTS credits: 4	Amount of contact lessons: 24	Teaching semester: <i>autumn</i>	Assessment form: <i>Examination</i>
Course objectives:	<p>The goal of this course is to help students to gain a deeper understanding of designing as a problem solving activity in a specific context. The course offers Design Theory and Methodology as a framework that integrates theoretical concepts from different fields, which all contribute to the process and thus to the product. Lectures, discussions and assignments help the students to develop the ability to think critically about the design process and thus to improve their own design processes and methods.</p>		
<p>Brief description of course content:</p> <p>(including the description of the independent work)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Design Theory' provides an overview of different approach to what design is all about: as science, as design thinking, as a social process and as art. 2. 'Structuring the Design Process' looks at the historical development of design methodology. We also address fundamental questions about design methodology: What is the use of methods? What is the value of methods? What are the differences between 'traditional' approaches and 'modern' methods? 3. 'Designing as Problem Solving' refers to different implications of designing as complex problem solving; requirements of coping with complex problems and limitations of human information processing will be discussed. 4. 'The Designer' focuses on how specific characteristics of the designer such as experience influence how designers think and act. Case-study material of design processes will be analyzed in order to gain an understanding of different strategies in thinking and acting. 5. 'Design teams' addresses the specific challenges of teams in New Product Development and the conditions that help design team to be effective. 6. 'Design research' focuses on different design research methodologies, incl philosophies, methods and tools. <p><u>Independent workload:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design methods – description and analyse 2. Blueprint & GIGA-mapping 3. A presentation based on a given theoretical text 4. Written essay 		
Learning outcomes:	<p>The student knows / can / is able to:</p> <p>" outline the history and development of the subject of Design Theory and Methodology.</p>		

	<p>" discuss Design Theory and Methodology as a framework for analyzing, understanding and explaining designing as human activity.</p> <p>" explain the difference between models, theories, and practice of designing and to think critically about the value of all three.</p> <p>" reflect consciously and critically on their own personal methods of designing.</p>
Assessment Methods:	The final grade is determined by Assignment 1 (weight: 15%) + Assignment 2 (weight: 15%) + Assignment 3 (weight: 15%) + written exam (weight: 55%)
Lecturer(s):	Ruth-Helene Melioranski
Course title in Estonian:	Disaini teooria ja metoodika
Prerequisted course(s):	-
Compulsory literature:	Will be given during the course
Replacement literature:	To be discussed with the teacher. <i>It is not possible to pass the course only on the base of the replacement literature.</i>
Participation and exam requirements:	Prerequisite for the grade is participation in 75% of classes and concluding required assignments.
Independent work:	<p><u>Independent workload:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design methods – description and analyse 2. Blueprint & GIGA-mapping 3. A presentation based on a given theoretical text 4. Written essay <p>Exact instructions will be given during the course.</p>
Grading criteria scale or the minimum level necessary for passing the subject:	<p>The evaluation criterias:</p> <p>Participants are expected to prepare for classes by undertaking the assigned, readings etc. The quality of class participation and group interaction will be used as a supplementary input to the grading process.</p> <p>Prerequisite for the grade is participation in 75% of classes and concluding required assignments</p>

	<p>A - All the assignments are excellently done in time. The student has actively and excellently taken part of all the classes, discussions and team works.</p> <p>B - All the assignments are excellently done in time. The student's overall participation of lectures, discussions and group works has been good.</p> <p>C - All the assignments are done in time. The student's overall participation of lectures, discussions and group works has been good.</p> <p>D - All the assignments are done in time. The student's overall participation of lectures, discussions and group works has been on minimum level.</p> <p>E – All the assignments are excellently done in time on minimum level. The student's overall participation of lectures, discussions and group works has shortcomings.</p>
<p>Information about the course:</p> <p>(Topics by contact session, deadlines of independent works and exams/assessments times)</p>	<p>05.09 10.00 - 15.30</p> <p>1. Defining design; historical overview of the development of design theory. Lecture and discussion. Blueprint & GIGA-mapping</p> <p>19.09 10.00 – 15.30</p> <p>2. Design processes, methods and tools. Design research. Lecture and discussion. Analysing exercise. Students' presentations;</p> <p>03.10 10.00 – 15.30</p> <p>Contemporary design paradigmas like user-centred design, inclusive design, social design. Lecture and discussion; students' presentations</p> <p>17.10 10.00 - 15.30</p> <p>4. Design management. Design brief. Design in policies and strategies. Lecture and discussion; students' presentations;</p>

Teaching Unit in charge:	Institute of Informatics
Course programme is prepared by:	Ruth-Helene Melioranski
Date:	21. august 2015

The course program is registered in the academic unit:

Date:	23.08.2015
Name of academic coordinator:	Merilin Tohver