Design Impact I, 2022

Course Description

Credits:
3 ECTS

Staff:

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Goals / Learning Outcome:
The course introduces (information) visualization as a tool for observation, self-reflection & communication. Students will learn to utilize the strength of visuals as a tool for research and creating insight into complex phenomena, as well as reflect on their learning achievements during the first academic year.

At the end of the course, students should be able to:
– recognise, summarize and reflect on their own learning achievements
– critically reflect on the role of design in their environments
– have a solid understanding of the basics of visual communication
– apply (information) visualization to interpret and create insight into complex problems

Main course project:
Visualization As an Act of Witnessing
Explore an economical, cultural, societal or environmental effect of design on your community/surroundings. The aim is not necessarily to find definitive answers, but stimulate curiosity, reflection, discussion and debate.

Students should develop a leading, critical question about their environment, which they attempt to investigate by recording data themselves. Students need to choose an appropriate way of framing their investigation/results and present their work in the form of an A1 poster, which will be exhibited in the final Design Impact course event.

The topics you will investigate during your projects will also form the basis for the course event workshop, during which you will work together with Design Impact II students to define the topics for next year's Thematic Studio.

Final submissions:
Assignment 1 (Learning reflections & visual narrative) (due 25 April 16:00)
Assignment 2 (Design & social justice) (TBD)
Course project, 1 poster, ~~A1~~ <mark>50×70cm</mark>, printed & PDF (due 8 June 16:00)
Video presentation of the poster (due 8 June 16:00)
Course journal, explaining the process/thinking behind the main project, as well as reflections on the course lectures (due 8 June 16:00)

All course submissions are done through MyCourses.

Workload:
The total workload for the course amounts to 81 hours (1 ECTS credits = 27 hours).

- Contact teaching (including final presentation) 35 hours
- Individual and group work 37 hours
- Personal reflection 8 hours
- Giving course feedback 1 hour

Attendance:
Students must attend and display active participation in at least 80% of the contact teachings. Participation in the final event in week 6 is mandatory.

Schedule:

Week 1 – Wednesday, 20 April, 09:15 » 12:30
09:15 – 09:45: Introduction to the course
09:50 – 10:50: Introduction to the course project
11:00 – 12:00: Learning reflections & visual narrative (lecture)

Week 2 – Wednesday, 27 April, 09:15 » 16:00
9:15 – 12:00: Visual Basics (lecture)
13:00– 14:00: Working on the course project (Creating questions)
14:00 – 14:45: Assignment recap

Week 3 – Wednesday, 4 May, 09:15 » 17:00
09:15 – 10:00: Design and social justice (lecture)
10:00 – 12:00: Working on the course project (Discussion on concept notes in groups)
13:00 – 17:00: Drawing with data (lecture)

Week 4 – Wednesday, 11 May, 09:15 » 16:00
09:15 – 11:00: Introduction to poster design (lecture)
11:00 – 12:00: Impact I & II Students meet
13:00 – 13:30: Tour of the Aalto Printlab
13:30 – 14:15: Assignment recap
14:14 – 16:00: Working on the course project (feedback session)

Week 5 – Wednesday, 25 May, 09:15 » 12:00
Project feedback session with the teachers

One week break

Week 6 – Friday, 3 June, 09:15 » 17:00
Exhibition/presentation of the course projects, final course event

Wednesday, 8 June
Submit your Course Journal to MyCourses

Grading:
The course consists of lectures, in-class exercises, learning assignments, a course journal, and a final project poster which will be presented during the last session. The final grade is calculated based on the student's performance in all of these areas and their overall participation in the course, in the following way:

20% Contributions to in-class discussions and group work
This grade is determined by the teachers based on whether the student:
– Attends all classes and arrives on time.
– Does all required in-class assignments.
– Demonstrates knowledge of course content.
– Contributes to class discussion with thoughtful questions, comments and examples.
– Is attentive and participates actively in class activities.
– Respects, listens and supports classmates.
– Gives constructive feedback and takes others' feedback into account.

20% Course Journal
– Critically reflects on the course content and the students' own learnings
– Documents inspiration, ideation and iterative processes of the final project
– Format is appropriate and readable

10% Learning Assignments
Assignment 1 (Learning reflections & visual narrative)
Assignment 2 (Design & social justice)

50% Final project

Evaluation Criteria
Topic Identifies a focused impact of design on a community, and discusses the topic critically. Builds on discussions from the course.
Research Includes your own research on the topic.
Presentation Presents a creative, thought provoking exploration of the topic. Narrative and visual style is appropriate in conveying the content. Effective use of imagery and text. Layout reflects course learnings about visual and information design. Meets format requirements.

Process
Meets deadlines.
Participates in in-class project work.
Creates concept notes to collaborate and build ideas.
Brings drafts to class for discussion.
Takes feedback into account
Submits a video presentation for grading.

All assignments will be evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5:
1 = Poor
2 = Satisfactory
3 = Good
4 = Very good
5 = Excellent

Additional Info:

Location
The course will be held in different classrooms every week, so make sure to check the location on MyCourses beforehand, and plan in enough time to find the room (Otakaari 1 can be tricky to navigate!).

Equipment
Please bring papers and pencils to every class, laptops are optional, but helpful.

Communication
Communication with the students will be done primarily through MyCourses.

Final course event
The final course event will be held together with students from Design Impact II & III, with faculty and guests attending. The event will last the whole day, with student presentations/poster shows in the morning, and a workshop in the afternoon. Participation in the final event is mandatory.