

DTEP, Week 01
Learning diary
Salu Ylirisku, 6.9.2022

Today I gave the first lecture to the biggest version of the DTEP course (see Figure 1). We had in total 50 students participating the lecture, which is about twice as much as we have had during the previous versions of the course. I recall we had something like 24 last time.



Figure 1. The students in the first lecture in the big AS lecture hall.

Somehow I had expected that planning the course would be very easy this time round, as the course went very smoothly last time. However, it was quite much more work now that I had to rethink how we organise the actual physical classrooms for this amount of students. There are simply no available appropriate spaces in Aalto. I decided to run the classes quicker, instead of two hours, in two slots of one hour. I also had to think how to do the splitting of the class into these two, and I think it seemed to work. Moreover, I had to quickly order more components for the personal snack boxes, because of so many participants.

I showed the route to Sähköpaja with a video, screenshot in (Figure 2), and asked students to pick up their personal snack boxes from the lab. The personal snack boxes were invented in the pandemic time to allow for students to do the exercises individually, at home too, when necessary.



Figure 2. This is the Sähköpaja lab.

I feel that the first lecture went well. At least there were some students who said they were quite excited about the course. I hope the course will prove to be a good experience, at least I will work hard to enable the best learning outcomes. I also changed the slides to tell about setting expectations for the course, since in some previous iterations of the course, students were disappointed for not being explicitly taught programming, or circuit design. I think I made that clear this time.

I asked the students to read the book by Norman (2013). I was glad to hear a question in the lecture about how the book should be read, i.e., is it ok to read only those parts that one might find

relevant. I responded to the question that we have basically two ways of reading the book: first, by following the proposed reading order that covers the full book in order, and second, a self-imposed order that is based on one's own interest. I said that both ways are ok, and furthermore, if those who read it in a self-organised manner complete the book early, they should include some other literature in their diaries.

An afterthought: In a dynamic situation, how can you know, what will be relevant for you after some time? This is also the dilemma in the innovation process: you cannot know which findings and what resources turn out to be the relevant ones. You can only know that after the fact. (Although, I need to add that my sense of the term 'relevant' might be different from someone else's, as I have such a strong interactionist background.)

References:

Norman, D. A. (2013). *The design of everyday things* (Revised and expanded edition). Basic Books.