Thematic Studio II 2023

ARTX-C1013 Bachelor's Programme in Design, Aalto ARTS

Antti Hietaniemi, Markku Reunanen, Andrés Lucero – CC-BY-NC 2023

DAY 1: Hello and welcome!

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Welcome to Thematic Studio II!

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Responsible teachers for Thematic Studio II

Contact us if you have any questions!

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Today’s programme

09:15–10:00	Course details: communications, structure, grading criteria, etc.
10:00–11:00	Group work - why are we doing it?
11:00–11:30	Discussion about the theme
12:00–13:00	Lunch break
13:15–15:00	Groups formation exercise

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Round of short introductions: who are you and how are you feeling right now?

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How many participated in the Thematic Studio I and Design Impact 1 courses last year? What was your experience?

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LESS HANDS ON WITH TOOLS	**EXCLUSIVELY GROUP WORK**	**MORE FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE**
NO INDIVIDUAL GUIDANCE	**FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TIME MGMT**	**MORE SYSTEMIC APPROACH**

Compared to TS1, students in Thematic Studio II are/have...

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10 minute break!

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Topic for 2023:

Safety & Security in the Digital Domain

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In this course we will explore the topic of Safety and Security in the Digital Domain, by developing ideas, using theory and practice provided by guest lecturers, and tools and methods of systems thinking and practical design work as groups to plan, execute and deliver project work throughout the course.

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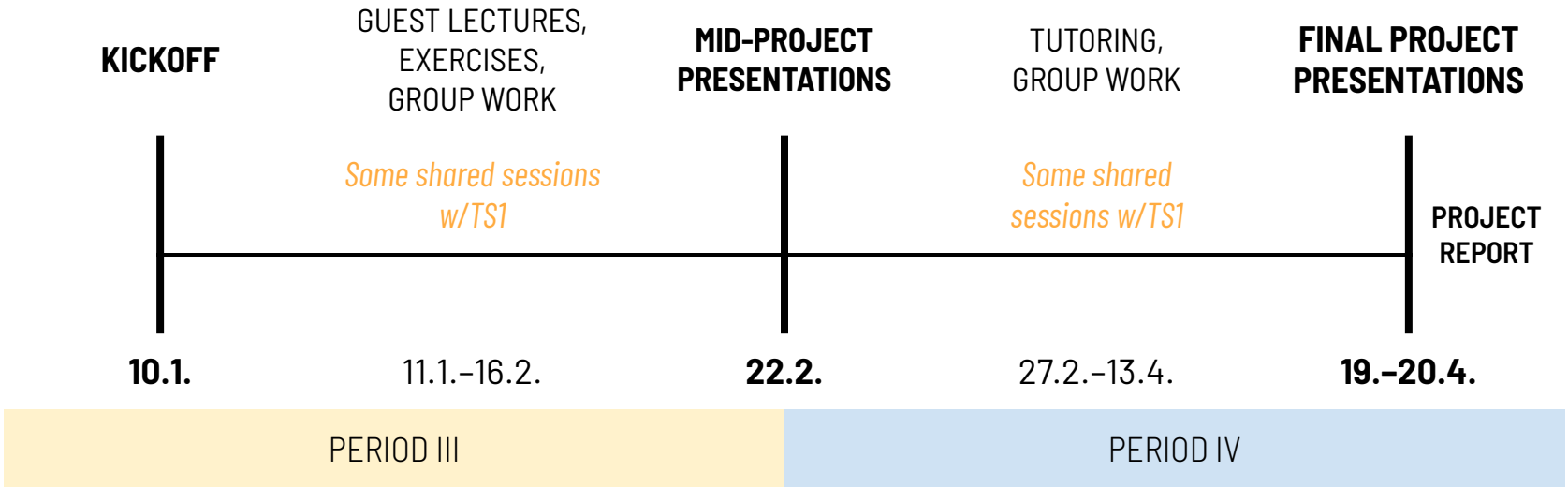

Course timeline

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Weekly topics period III:

Other courses concurrently:
ARTX-C1020 - Strategic Identity and Design
(9.1.–20.2.2023)

WEEK 2	Kickoff & Group formation started; Guest lecture.
WEEK 3	Benchmarking: lecture & exercises. Guest lectures.
WEEK 4	Ideation: lecture & workshop exercise.
WEEK 5	Idea presentations. Tutoring in groups.
WEEK 6	Diffusion and domestication: lecture & exercises.
WEEK 7	Group work; TS1 Mid-project presentations with 2nd year students peer feedback
WEEK 8	**TS2 Mid-Project Presentations**

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Weekly topics period IV:

Other courses concurrently:
MUO-C1050 - Fashion in Society (1.3.–19.4.2023)
19th of April conflict??

WEEK 9	Independent group work; Tutoring sessions
WEEK 10	Scenarios lecture; Tutoring sessions
WEEK 11	Independent group work; Tutoring sessions
WEEK 12	Independent group work; Tutoring sessions
WEEK 13	Testing lecture; Tutoring sessions
WEEK 14	Testing session w/ TS1 students? Tutoring sessions; Easter holiday.
WEEK 15	Easter holiday. Tutoring for final presentations.
WEEK 16	**TS2 Final Presentations**

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Period III TS2: WEEKS 2–3				
M	T	W	T	F
Period III TS2: WEEKS 4–7				
M	T	W	T	F
WEEK8: TS2 Mid-project presentations				
Period IV TS2: WEEKS 9–14				
M	T	W	T	F
WEEK 16: TS2 Final presentations				

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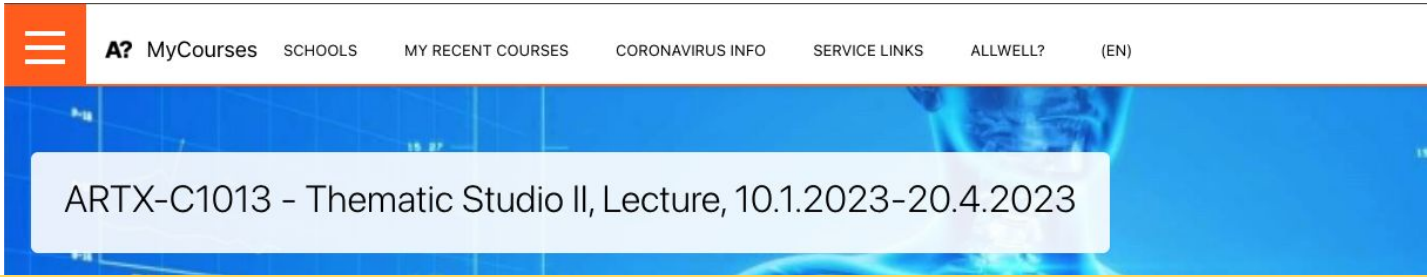
Course coordination & communication

All teaching days as well as links to calls, forms and resources are listed on the MyCourses page. All announcements and assignments as well as points and feedback for exercises are found there: https://mycourses.aalto.fi/course/view.php?id=37402

Contact us via email if you have questions related to the course, or any known absences, individual study arrangements or other matters that might affect your participation.



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Course requirements

To pass the course, participants need to:

- actively participate in class – minimum 80% attendance is required,
- complete the given assignments,
- create a concept and an early prototype (can be conceptual/digital), and
- document the process in a report.

Final grade will be based on the successful completion of the steps, the quality of the report and other written assignments, and the design outcome. More detailed requirements for each milestone are provided next.

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First three deliverables

DLs before the mid-project presentation

Benchmarking report

- A report documenting 5–6 cases you analyzed
- Start with a one-paragraph summary of the content
- Maximum length: six (6) A4 pages
- Graded 0–5 based on the quality of writing, analysis, structure and argumentation.
- Points can be deducted for going over the page limit.

Idea presentation

- A presentation about your project idea to others: what is it, why would it be worth pursuing?
- Maximum duration: 10 minutes + 10 min discussion – rehearse the timing!
- Graded 0–5 based on the quality of presentation, insight, argumentation and structure.
- Points can be deducted for going over the maximum duration.

Diffusion essay

- A reflective essay on the diffusion of an innovation
- Maximum length: four (4) A4 pages
- Graded 0–5 based on the quality of writing, reflection, structure and use of theory.
- Points can be deducted for going over the page limit or going off topic.

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Three later deliverables

Project work outcomes

Mid-project presentation

- Presentation on your groupwork idea
- Maximum duration: 20 minutes + 10 for discussion (rehearse the timings!)
- What is your project all about? Why is it important? How do you pursue your goals? What is the expected outcome? Who is your target audience?
- You can use material from the idea presentation and benchmarking
- Graded 0–5 based on the quality of presentation, use of examples, argumentation and structure.

Final presentation

- Presentation of the final work you did, be it a prototype, well-developed concept or something else
- Maximum duration: 20 minutes + 10 for discussion (rehearse the timings!)
- Focus on your process and progress, present concrete steps and outcomes
- Dare to show dead ends and discarded ideas too
- Graded 0–10 based on the quality of presentation, structure and outcome of the project.

Project Report

- Recommended length: 10–12 A4 pages
- Include in the report at least your concept, your progress, the outcome, your own reflection on the shortcomings and merits of the project, and future development ideas
- Use visual material such as mockups, sketches and screenshots
- Graded 0–10 based on the quality of writing, structure, argumentation and reflection.

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Assessment and grading

Late delivery = 1 point deducted for each day late

	Period III				Period IV	
Deliverable	Benchmarking report	Idea presentation	Diffusion essay	Mid-project presentation	Final presentation	Project Report
Points	0–5	0–5	0–5	0–5	0–10	0–10

Grade	**0**	**1 Passable**	**2 Satisfactory**	**3 Good**	**4 Very good**	**5 Excellent**
Total points	0–19	20–23	24–27	28–31	32–35	36–40

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What kind of ideas are we looking for?

“Design project addressing a socially-relevant challenge, embedded in studio pedagogy… The complexity of design work is higher in the 2nd year. Students are introduced to systems design (thinking) and are asked to account for more complex relationships in their projects. The whole project is executed as a group…”

—TSAK Proposal for Programme Curriculum for DBA

“…the ambition is that the students explore the topics from the perspective of systems theory/design and produce group projects throughout the course.”

—Oscar

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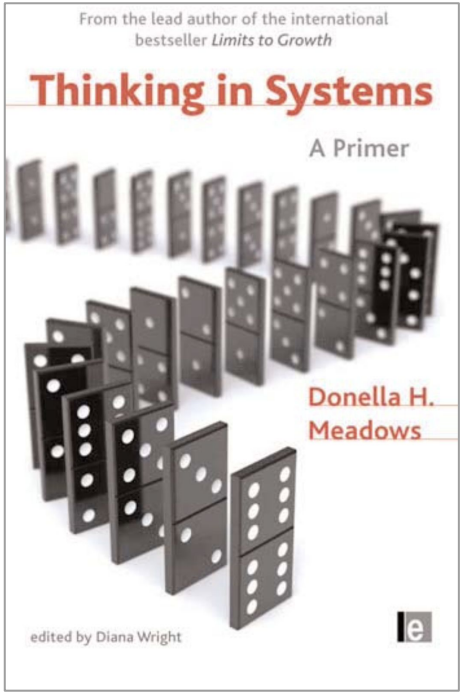
Terminology and methods related to systems thinking and design can be sourced from Donella Meadows' "Thinking in Systems" (2009).



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Group work – why are we doing it?

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TS2 is a group work -based course,
meaning that the group works together as a team
on the assignments and on formulating their
ideas.

Ideas are presented for feedback, then developed into the mid-project concept, and further developed into the final project, presented at the end of the course and elaborated in the final report.

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Points for the exercises, presentations,
and the final report are given to all members of the group based on the grading criteria – shared effort, shared grade.

It is recommended to develop a structure for working together that everyone can agree with, such as specific roles. Writing and editing text collaboratively and taking turns when presenting are good methods, for example.

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The rationale for group work is based on diversity of opinions and approaches.
Aim is to try to find a fair balance of project work skills and mutual interests on the topic.

Working in a group insures against unforeseen issues, such as illness or mistakes, but also phenomenon known as “echo chamber”: respectfully critical discussion is important to refine the ideas and approaches.

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Ideally you will form groups organically around similar ideas and compatible skills.*

We will start group formation today in the afternoon, but you can take time until next week to finalize your team.

* No group is conflict-free. Disputes and disagreements are normal. It is how you solve them in a constructive way that matters the most.

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Any questions or comments at this point?

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10 minute break!

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Topic of the course:

Safety & Security in the Digital Domain

What does it mean to you? How do you feel about it?

Write down some keywords & then let's discuss!

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Key points from the discussion:

- Human factors (“users”) ⚖️ Technical factors (“systems”)
- Dangers (alarmism) ⚖️ Possibilities (optimism)
- Centralization ⚖️ DIY/“roll your own”
- Control ⚖️ Liberty
- Social engineering ⚖️ blanket scamming
- Laws, rules, regulations ⚖️ wild wild west
- Filter bubbles, Mis/Disinformation ⚖️ Facts & Criticality

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Lunch Break!

– until 13:00

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Welcome back!
How was lunch?

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Discussion time with your neighbour!

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As an icebreaker, turn to your neighbour and discuss...

- How was your morning?
- What are your feelings on this spring term?
- How do you feel about the coming course?
- Anything else that's on your mind!

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In groups of 4 people: 6 rounds, 10 min each.

In groups of 4, discuss your own ideas about the topic of the course.

Write best ideas down clearly and concisely on yellow post-its. Avoid too many words - aim for clarity.

Every ten minutes we will rotate participants around according to the “Social Golfer” problem, so that everyone has a chance to meet and discuss with everyone else at least once.

Adding to the table of ideas is the idea – and also commenting on the existing ideas.

https://goodenoughgolfers.com/

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ON YELLOW POST-ITS

Write shortly and clearly in block letters words or concepts about the topics “Safety” or “Security” in (digital domain) that you find interesting or potentially worth working with. Present your ideas to others and explain your rationale.

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Rotation!

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On rotation, review the existing post-its on the table.

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ON PINK POST-ITS :

Write shortly and clearly in block letters any **questions or comments.**

Then proceed to discuss your ideas with your new group, adding new post-its if needed.

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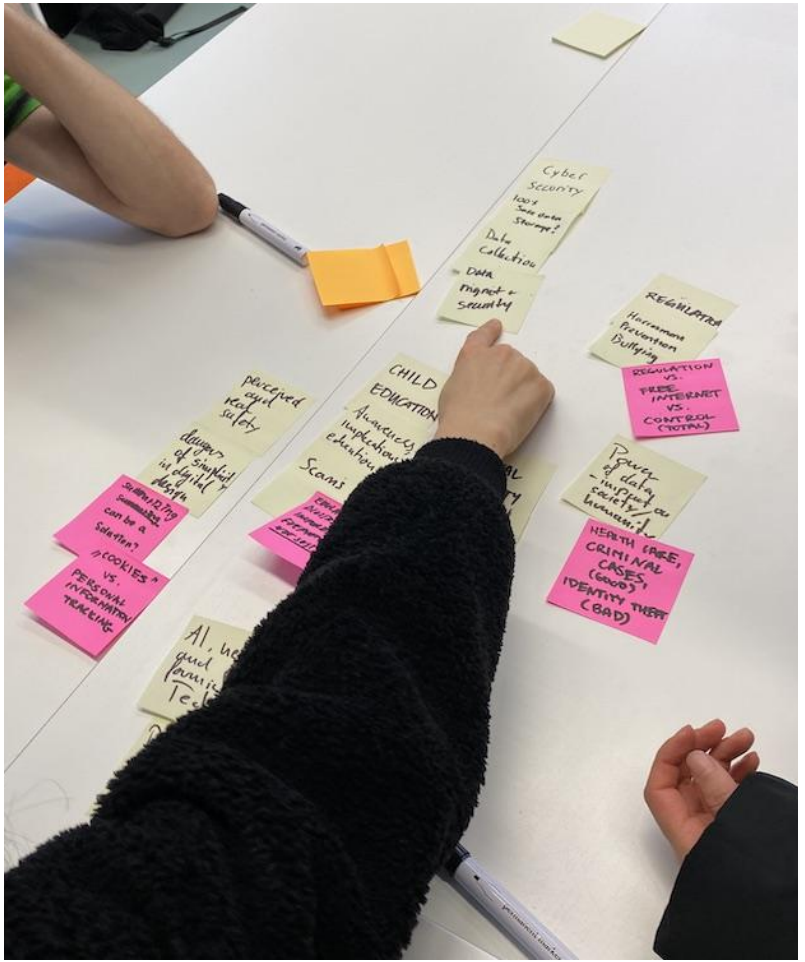

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Repeat x5!

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Return to your original table with the same people as on round #1, and take a breather

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10 minute break!

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Coming back to your original table, review the comments and feedback to the ideas on yellow post-its.

Review and rephrase your concepts based on the discussions and feedback in writing on the orange post-its (ripe yellow).

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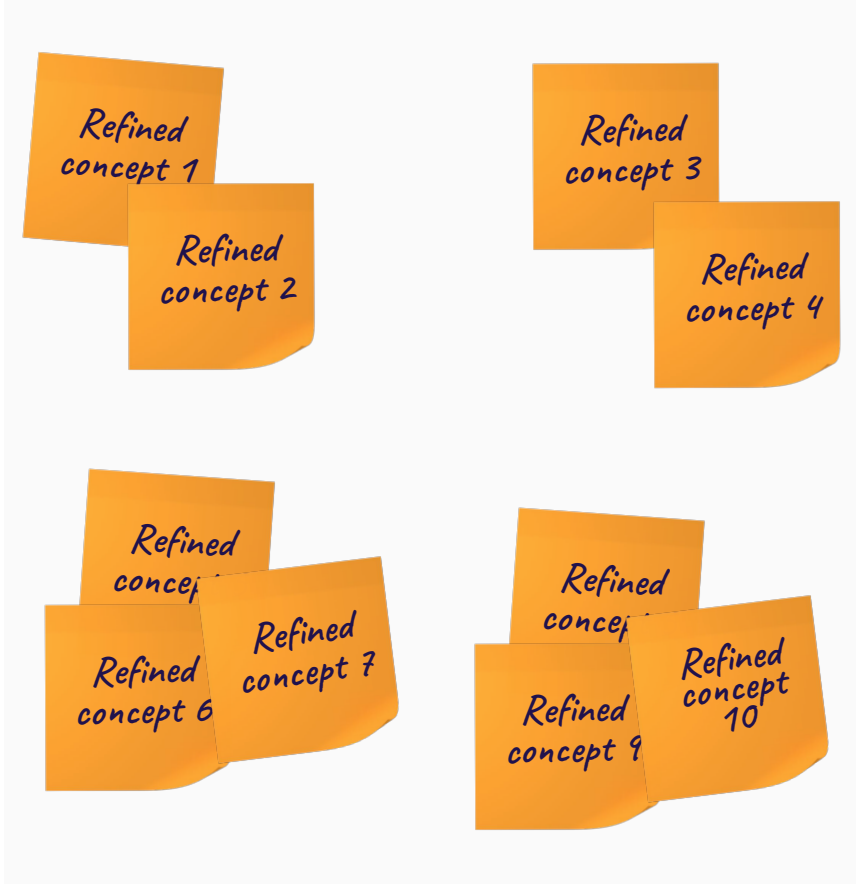
Bring the orange post-its on the whiteboard in front of the class and cluster them according to conceptual affinity (closeness).



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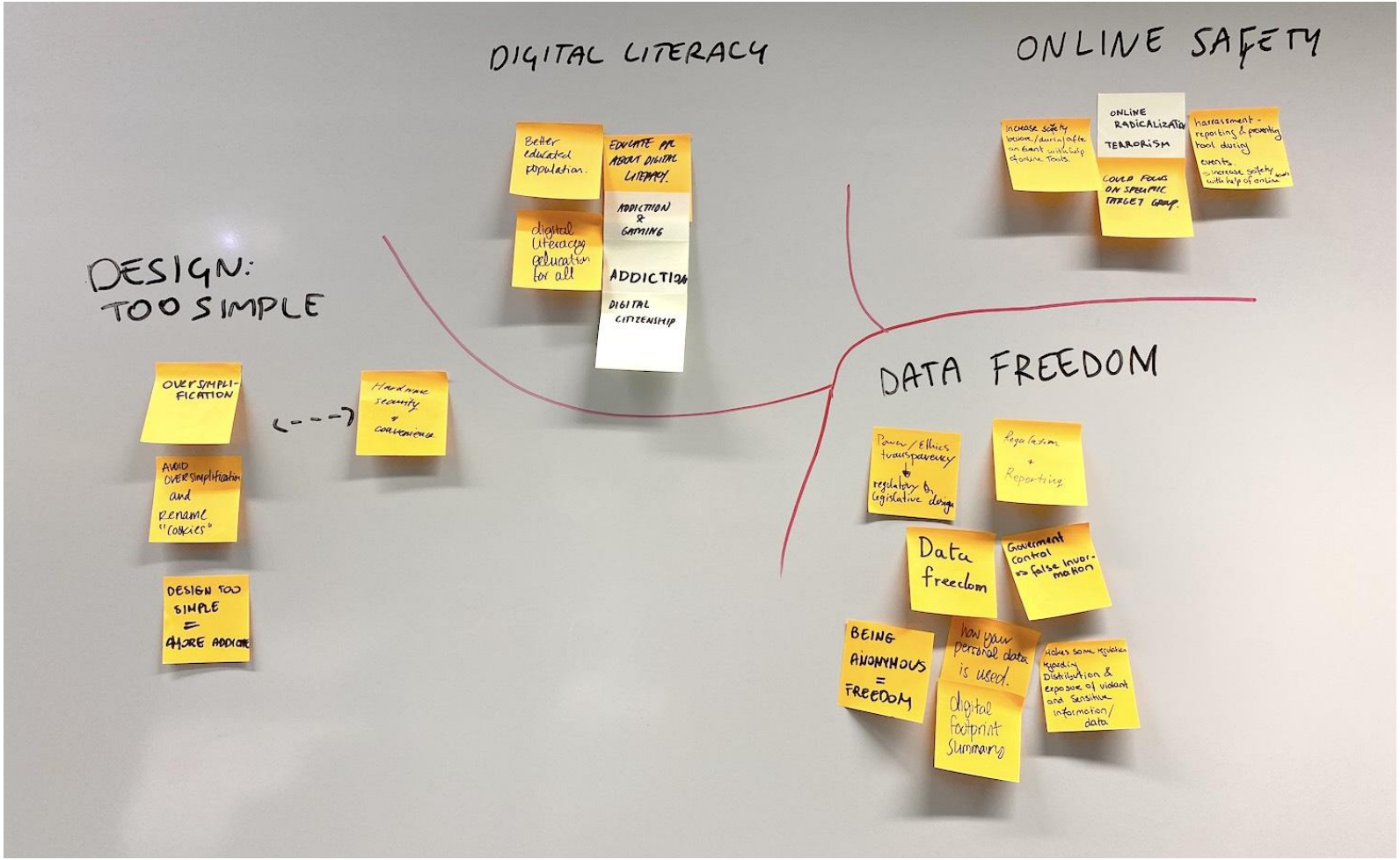

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Homework: Self-evaluation

Evaluate your project work skills to enable fair group formation.

Needed tomorrow morning.

Write down your **top 3 strengths** and **top 3 areas for improvement** in group work projects.

Tomorrow morning find a partners from a concept closely related to yours (orange post-its) and take turns sharing strengths and areas for improvement with each other.