

# First step in the Thesis Process

## MUO-E0023 Thesis Plan Orientation, 3ECTS

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# Participation tips



Use Zoom's chat for questions and comments and don't hesitate to engage in discussions



Mute your microphone if you are not speaking



Open your camera, if possible



Raise hand if you want to ask out loud

## **!!!!!!NOTE!!!!!!**

- Make sure your real name is shown in Zoom.
- Your attendance is tracked by Zoom Report.



# Who is this course for?

## 1. **Master's students in Department of Design / Aalto ARTS**

Mandatory for following 5 study programs/majors (in the alphabetical order):

*Collaborative and Industrial Design (CoID)*

*Contemporary Design (CoDe)*

*Creative Sustainability (CS)*

*Fashion, Clothing and Textile Design (FaCT)*

*International Design Business Management (IDBM)*

## 2. **Those who have completed Design Research (MUO-E0002)**



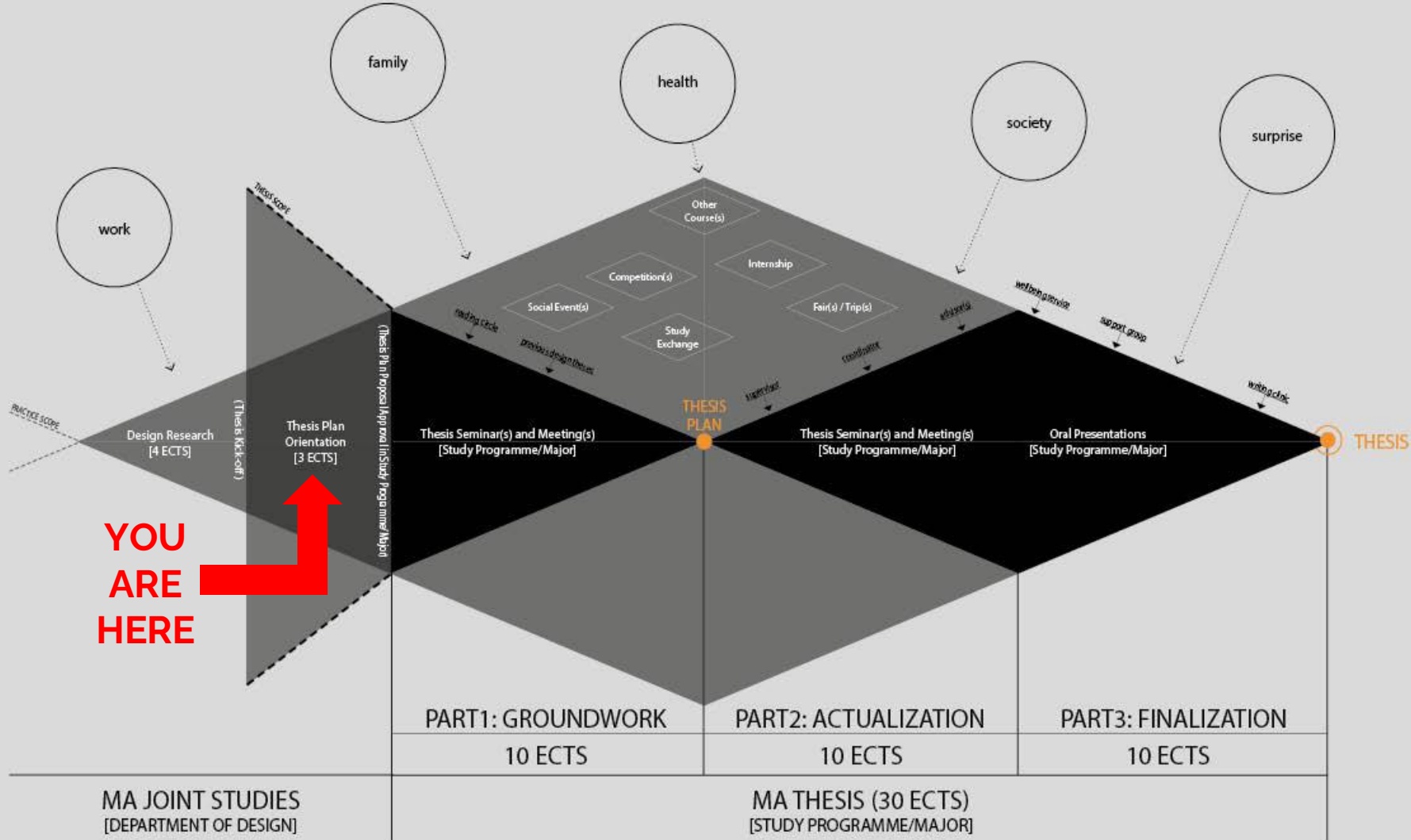
# Intended Learning Outcomes

1. To develop a thesis plan relevant to your thesis topic and MA programme;
2. To demonstrate familiarity with information retrieval, academic writing, research ethics and other issues relevant to carrying out your MA thesis; and
3. To comprehend and apply in your thesis process the contents of the Master's Thesis Guide of the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture, including aims, planning, and process for completing MA thesis, and the thesis evaluation criteria.

## What is it?

**Goal** is to be well prepared for MA thesis in the Department of Design.

**Content: Practical info** about how to create a compelling and actionable thesis **plan**, and how to **manage** your thesis process.





# Planning

During planning student asks and answers the following questions:

- What am I trying to accomplish? What are my learning and other objectives?
- What resources do I have and what do I need to do to get resources?
- What are the methods and means to achieve my objectives?
- Is this the optimal, most efficient and rewarding path?



# Our programme

Date	Day 1 Aug 28, Mon	Day 2 Aug 29, Tue	Day 3 Aug 30, Wed	Day 4 Aug 31, Thu	Day 5 Sep 1, Fri
Type	Zoom session: <b>Positioning &amp; Writing</b>	Independent studying + tutoring option	Zoom session: <b>Planning 1 &amp; Working</b>	Independent studying + tutoring option	Zoom session: <b>Experiences &amp; Planning 2</b>
Content	<b>Basics</b>	Assignments	Techniques	Assignments	Actions





# Requirements to Pass

- **Submission** of 4 pre-assignments in MyCourses (by Fri 18.8.)
  - **Participation** in 6 contact teaching sessions this week (morning+afternoon of Mon, Wed & Fri)
  - **Doing** 4 assignments in MyCourses:
    - Submit a finished D-S-M-G-R exercise (By the end of Wednesday 30.8.)
    - Submit a finished Fourfold exercise (By the end of Thursday 31.8.)
    - Submit a summary of key points after watching a video lecture on Thesis Plan by Turkka Keinonen and listening a podcast by Director of your study program/major (By the end of Friday 1.9.)
    - Submit a finished Action Plan, including Sociogram (by the end of Wednesday 6.9.)
- \*If needed, submit missing, failed or revised assignments (by the end of Friday 15.9.)*



# Grading Policy

- Each assignment is graded: Passed with Distinction - Passed - New Revision Needed - Failed
- Each assignment is graded separately even though they are submitted together through MyCourses. For instance, in MyCourses grading page for Pre-Assignment, it is shown 'New Revision Needed' if there is one (or more) assignment that need revision.
- If an assignment is graded with Failed or New Revision Needed, it can be revised and resubmitted via MyCourses until 15 September.
- All assignments are graded via MyCourses.
- Course grade calculation logic:

<b>Assignment grades</b>	<b>Course Grade</b>
One or more "Failed"	0
3-4 "New Revision Needed"	1
1-2 "New Revision Needed"	2
0-1 "Passed with Distinction"	3
2-4 "Passed with Distinction"	4
Five or more "Passed with Distinction"	5

*"REMINDER"*

# MASTER'S THESIS:

## Learning to Become a Master of Arts in Design

### What do you need to learn?

- A set of domain specific knowledge and skills as a qualified master  
    >>> Study Programme / Major
  - A set of required actions >>> Department
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# What is a thesis?



# 'Thesis' as a Noun

- a. A statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved.
- a. A long essay or dissertation involving personal research, written by a candidate for a university degree.

- Oxford English Dictionary

>>> *There are different ways of doing a thesis*

>>> *Also there are different ways of using 'a project' or 'projects' for your thesis*



# Five Questions to Craft a Thesis

- What does this idea claim?
- What reason do I have for accepting this claim?
- What evidence do I have for thinking those reasons are true?
- What alternatives and objections can I think of?
- What general principle of reasoning makes my reasons relevant to my claim?

- The Craft of Argument (2007)



# Five Questions to Craft a Thesis (problem-solving version)

- What is the problem?
- How will the action you propose solve the problem?
- How will your solution be implemented?
- How is your solution better than alternatives?
- What is the value of your action?



# Five Questions to Craft a Thesis (sense-making version)

- What is the concept?
- How will the action you propose introduce something new?
- How will your concept be implemented?
- How is your concept built on something already existing?
- What is the value of your action?





# D-S-M-G-R Exercise

View TPO MyCourses > Step 1: Orientation week programme > In-Class Assignments: D-S-M-G-R Exercise.

This exercise helps you identify relevant categories (“building blocks”) for possible scenarios of your thesis.

1. See the description of each category from the template to fill up.
2. Connect written option(s) from each category to speculate different scenarios.
3. Examine which scenario works best for your interest.

*>> DL Wed, 30 August, 23:59*



# Fourfold Exercise

View TPO MyCourses > Step 1: Orientation week programme > In-Class Assignments: Fourfold Exercise.

This exercise guides you to build a narrative based on the result of the D-S-M-G-R exercise.

1. See the description of each category from the template to fill up.
2. Review different scenarios that you examined according to the fourfold structure.
3. Fourfold does not need to be filled in a particular order. Start filling in each category at your convenience.

To get a 'pass with distinction': You can read the further description of the Fourfold and articulate the text. **>> DL Thu, 31 August, 23:59**

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**Afternoon:  
On academic language  
Dr. Eeva Berglund, Dept of Design**



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## Thank you! Questions?

Thank you!

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