

## SYLLABUS MUO-E8023 - Values in Design Futures – 2020

16.04.2020-20.05.2020 for 5 ECTS (approx. 135 hours). Thursdays 09:15 - 12:00, except 20.5., which is a Wednesday, remotely on Zoom. This is the link: <https://aalto.zoom.us/j/109403689> also available via MyCourses.

Taught by Eeva Berglund (teacher in charge) and Idil Gaziulusoy. Teaching assistant, Camilla Andersson. We are best available on email, [firstname.lastname@aalto.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname@aalto.fi). Please allow time for responses.

**Overview** The course gives students tools to attend critically to the values, ethics and politics of designing futures, through exploring discourses and practices regarding “futures” and “societal change”. Design has always been profoundly engaged in shaping society through ideas and visions of the future. Today, as method and visual/material practice, it is increasingly used to imagine, explore, communicate and steer societal change. In so doing, design involves judgements about what is desirable and for whom, it requires working in contexts of potentially conflicting values and surfacing salient aspects of change-making. This course prepares students to be more sensitive to the values, ethics and politics of design by pointing to such frontiers in design.

The course draws from several disciplines, including but not limited to design research, history, anthropology, sustainability science, futures studies and science and technology studies (STS).

### Schedule

- 1 16.4.2020 *Introduction to Values in Design Futures*
- 2 23.4.2020 *Thinking critically about values*
- 3 30.4.2020 *Genres of futures thinking*
- 4 07.5.2020 *Utopia, dystopia and social change*
- 5 14.5.2020 *Critical and creative horizons in futures studies*
- 6 20.5.2020 *Presentations (NOTE: this is a Wednesday)*

**Teaching sessions** consist of lectures, online or offline as required, work in small groups and pairs. Student preparation and reflection work will take place as individual and/or group work before and after the joint sessions. Students should read the required [R] texts before each session, including a set of readings before the first meeting. This will be uploaded 2 weeks before the start of the course.

**Readings** will be provided on MyCourses unless they are freely available online and/or in the library. Readings are in three categories:

R = required

S = supplementary

A = advanced (e.g. for doctoral students). Read the required [R] texts before the session, and as much of the supplementary texts as you wish and have time for.

### Workload 135 hours

- Lectures, seminars and discussions 21 hours
- Group assignments 10 hours
- Reading 74 hours
- Individual coursework: written reflections and final essay 30 hours, where 10 – 20% of this time (reading and coursework) as time to think

**Deliverables and deadlines** The course relies on doing substantial and careful reading (make notes), with one piece of joint work and a final individual essay to be submitted as written work. Submit assignments for grading on MyCourses as a pdf file. Include your name(s) and other details of the submission in the document itself, and include a surname in the file title (your own for the essay, one name is enough for group work).

*Group project, Assignment 1:* A visualization in groups. Interim submission of visual and short notes to accompany it 30.4. (peer feedback, formative assessment). Presentations 20.5. with final submission due 25.5.2019 at 23:59.

*Final essay, Assignment 2:* An essay of about 2000 words. The materials required to write the essay will be provided in week 3 (30.4.). The essay should be submitted as a PDF through MyCourses not later than 31.5, 23.59.

**Grading** is on a scale from 0 - 5 with all tasks as well as active class participation contributing to the final mark.

**Completion of the course requires:**

- Attending the first teaching session.
- Participation in online sessions (at least 80% unless otherwise agreed).
- Completion of preparation and reflection work (reading and writing).
- Progress in critical thinking, as evident in class participation and coursework.
- For written work, presentation of work in academic style and demonstration of familiarity with course materials (use references)

**Generic coursework assessment criteria:**

- 1) evidence of familiarity with the contents of readings and lectures and of how these connect to sociotechnical change generally. Includes evidence of using and referencing sources appropriately (40%)
- 2 ) evidence of analytic, critical and creative engagement with the topics (40%)
- 3) quality and clarity in the articulation and communication of what has been learned (20%)

**Key criteria on a scale from 0 - 5:** a 5 will normally be granted to work that demonstrates excellence in all areas; a 4 will be granted to a work that is excellent if uneven or slightly lacking in some area; a 3 suggests the work is good but the issues are not very developed, or that there are shortcomings in structure, critical insight or presentation; a 2 may contain good contents but is weaker, possibly superficial or mechanical; a 1 is normally granted to a piece of work that shows little effort or understanding of the course content.

Submitting work late incurs an automatic penalty of one grade. All submitted work as well as active class participation contribute to the final mark. All coursework including the final assessment will be examined holistically, with assessment criteria applied as appropriate to each exercise.