



Ref. No.

UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Philosophy of/on/in/through Design

Credit points: 7,5 ECTS

Course code:

Responsible department: Umeå Institute of Design

Main field of study: Industrial Design

Level: PhD studies

Specialisation in relation to degree requirements: Doctoral degree in Industrial Design

Subject area: Design

Grading scale: Pass course only (G Pass, U Fail)

Any programme affiliation:

Established: This course description was approved by the Research Council at Umeå Institute of Design, Umeå University, on 2014-05-21 and is valid from the spring term of 2014.

Revised: Revision discussed at the spring 2018 meeting of the PhD Programme Council, approved at the decision meeting on 2018-06-13.

Contents

This course aims at a deepened understanding of the theory and philosophy of design, including basic insights into philosophical methods and ways of working with theory development. Including both historical works and contemporary examples, the courses gives the student a more developed ability to understand, articulate and critique conceptual and philosophical matters in design. In terms of research abilities, this is also about how to achieve a more consistent and coherent argument, and how to structure and articulate the logic of a design inquiry.

The purpose of the course is not to give the students a comprehensive overview of all philosophy relevant to design, but rather to inquire into the relations one might establish between design and philosophy. As such, the course will focus on philosophical works and positions that have had a historical impact on design discourse.

Deliverables

Active seminar participation is required. Additional deliverables consist of in-class oral presentations and papers; further details are given in the supplemental information each time the course is run.

Expected learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students should have developed:

- A deepened understanding of central theoretical and philosophical issues in design discourse.
- An ability to locate and articulate theoretical and philosophical issues in one's own research as well as in the research of others.
- An ability to structure and articulate the foundational theoretical issues of a design inquiry.



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Relation to general study plan

Courses in this thematic area should address the following learning goals in the general study plan (numbering as found in the Appendix to the general study plan):

Primary: 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.3, 2.3.1

Secondary: 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.5, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.2.2

Required knowledge

Qualifications for admission to the PhD programme in industrial design, or equivalent.

Form of instruction

Lecture, seminars, and workshops.

Examination modes and grades

Examination is held both orally and in writing, individually and in group. The assessment of the course is based upon active seminar participation, an individual oral presentation in seminar form, and two individual written essays (as instructed during the course).

Grades for the course are awarded when students have passed all examinations and compulsory course elements. After completing the course, one of the grades Fail (U) or Pass (G) is awarded the student. A student who for two consecutive examinations for the same course has not been passed, has the right to have another examiner appointed, if there are no special reasons against this (Higher Education Ordinance chapter 6, 22 §). The request for a new examiner shall be made in writing to the head of department at Umeå Institute of Design.

Academic credit transfer

Equivalency credits for this course can only be given if it can be shown through transcripts and course plans that a similar course has been passed and after the supervisor and examiner for the PhD education have evaluated and approved the students' individual level of skills and knowledge.

Course literature

Course literature will vary each time the course is given and will be specified in the supplemental information given at that time.