

KONSTFACK

Department of Design, Interior Architecture and Visual Communication

Master's Programme in Design

Course code: MDE103

Course name: In-depth studies in the subject and environment / Fördjupning ämne och omvärld

Test code: IP14 and IP15

Level: Advanced level

Valid from: VT18

COURSE MODULE DESCRIPTION

Explorative Outlooks:

Explorations 3 (16 ects) & Outlooks (9 ects)

Course module description for students in Individual Study Plan in Design, spring 2018.

Responsible teachers: Katja Pettersson (Explorations 3) and Maja Frögård (Outlooks)

Participating teachers: Martín Ávila, Bo Westerlund, Erik Sandelin, Cheryl Akner-Koler and Christian Björk

Visiting lecturers: Karin Ehrnberger, Mahmoud Keshavarz, Josina Vink and others

Examinators: Jonas Ahnme (Explorations 3) Martín Ávila (Outlooks)

General

As there are many connections and synergies between the course modules *Explorations 3* and *Outlooks*, they share the same course module description: *Explorative Outlooks*.

Together with the previous module *Re-orientations* the overarching aim of the course *In-depth studies in the subject and environment* is for the students to broaden and deepen their design competence by relating their work to different societal contexts including collaboration with an organisation.

Explorations 3

For Explorations 3, the focus is on design explorations based on a combination of investigation and reflection, thinking and making, theory and practice. During Explorations 2 and Re-Orientations the students began to establish an inquiry, i.e. formulate a question or a small number of questions. In Explorations 3 the inquiry is shaped in relation to an organisation, thus evolving the design work with a higher degree of complexity. The students lead their projects individually or in small groups. During the module they should personally demonstrate their ability to practise an independent design exploration. An integral part in Explorations 3 is the making of probes, prototypes, drawings, material explorations, and the execution of design experiments. The students should aim to position their practice and interests in relation to their discipline.

Outlooks

In Outlooks the students investigate different aspects of and perspectives on their design work. They get introduced to organisational, societal and critical perspectives on design work through lectures, workshops and study visits. Through practise they gain knowledge and insight on their relation to organisations and the conditions, constraints and responsibilities they face. The students reflect on societal and ethical perspectives of their proposals, and speculate on possible consequences of their design work.

The learnings, insights and outcomes from Explorative Outlooks should be continuously developed in the Atlas and the Individual Study Plan.

Teaching methods

Design Exploration

The student formulates a brief for the design work that will be carried out during the modules. The work during the modules should include exploration of the chosen context, workshops with stakeholders, physical materialisations, prototype work and gestalt explorations, as well as continuous contact with the collaborating organisation. The outcome of the design work should be presented both for the organisation as well as students and teachers.

Lectures and Visits

During the modules there will be a series of lectures and workshops introducing different design methods, approaches and perspectives of design work. We will also visit organisations and companies where the students are encouraged to reflect on different design opportunities.

Tutoring

The students will have continuous tutoring both individually and in groups with Katja Pettersson, Maja Frögård and others during the modules.

Writing and Reflecting

During the design explorations the students will reflect on their investigations, results and experiences through writing. This will be done through *A reflective and critical text*, see more about this in course requirements.

Electives

Within Explorations 3 the student is offered elective courses during week 10 and 11. The students either choose an elective course or propose an activity that relate to the student's investigation.

Learning outcomes

For learning outcomes, refer to the course syllabus for MDE103: In-depth studies in the subject and environment: Explorations 3 and Outlooks:

<https://www.konstfack.se/en/Education/Masters-Degree-Programmes/Design/Individual-Study-Plan/Course-syllabi/Academic-year-2016-171/>

Course requirements

In order to get a passing grade, the students need to:

For both Explorations 3 + Outlooks

- Choose and approach an organization to collaborate with,
- Actively participate in reviews, tutorings, lectures, workshops and other scheduled events,
- Continuously develop the Atlas and the Individual Study Plan with the learnings, insights and outcomes from Explorative Outlooks, show the ongoing work during tutoring sessions, and present the final versions by the end of the module.

For Explorations 3

- Develop and document materializations for the PRESENTATIONS,
- Identify and present possible design directions for their work in PRESENTATION 1,
- Choose one of the directions and develop it into an articulated proposal for PRESENTATION 2,
- Communicate the proposal clearly and argue for its relevance in FINAL PRESENTATION, and

- Present and communicate the design work and the final proposal to the collaborating organisation.

For Outlooks

- Show documentation of collaboration with an organisation including at least one workshop. Choose how you want to present this with images, text, video etc.,
- Demonstrate the ability to reflect on and make relevant use of insights from lectures, workshops, visits and seminars in the organisational contexts,
- Demonstrate insight into possible consequences of your design proposal in relation to a wider context,
- Hand in a reflective and critical text. The text is primarily intended for the students' own learning, where writing is used as a method to create knowledge about the context, the immediate stakeholders and the organisation.
- Hand in one page that fits into your portfolio. By the end of the modules the student presents one page with the strengths and most important aspects of their proposal. This should be what the students would like to show to a future employer and therefore display their skills, knowledge and interests.

Examinations

Examinations cover work from modules Explorations 3 and Outlooks in the course “MDE103: In-depth studies in the subject and environment”. Partial examinations will be carried out in PRESENTATION 1 and PRESENTATION 2. The final examination will be in the FINAL PRESENTATION. The examinations are done through oral, material and visual presentations.

The course uses the grading scale Fail (U) or Pass (G).

Examination criteria

Work is assessed based on these criteria:

1. Relevance for the field of the design

The student will demonstrate the ability to carry out studies and make experiments in relation to their formulated inquiry and exploration. They must articulate and relate their work to the field of design.

2. Academic and artistic approach

Demonstrating a creative and critical approach, the student must articulate the relevance of their work on both academic and artistic grounds. Processes and physical outcomes in the form of prototypes, other types of materializations and experiments should be presented. The students should reflect on choices made during their design process and position themselves through their presented work.

3. Communicability

The student's work processes and outcomes should be communicable in a clear way to examiners and audience(s). Documentation must follow standards of citation, copyright and acknowledgements. The work must be made available in requested forms for examination.

Schedule

The modules start week 6 (on February 5th) and end week 21 (on May 25th). These are the dates for the major presentations:

- PRESENTATION 1 on 180222 and 180223
- PRESENTATION 2 on 180416 and 180417
- The FINAL PRESENTATION on 180517 and 180518

There will also be smaller assignments throughout the course. Briefs for the presentations and assignments will be communicated separately before each occasion.

Detailed and updated information about activities are in Google calendar for DMFA1.

Literature and other materials

A suggested reading list will be here: [GoogleDrive > MFA1 > Explorative Outlooks > Literature&Resources](#)

Document drawn up by: Katja pettersson and Maja Frögård 20180130