



## COURSE SYLLABUS

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### Design WHAT

30.0 Credits

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Code: MDE216

Established by: 2025-04-24, Prefekt

Valid from: Spring semester 2026 (2026-01-19)

Level within study regulation: Second cycle

Subject group: DE1 Design

Disciplinary DE Design 100%

domain:

Grading scale: UG Two-grade scale

Course modules	Module 1: Degree work, 16.5 Credits
	Module 2: Written thesis, 7.5 Credits
	Module 3: Exhibit, Reflect and Project, 6.0 Credits

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### Main course content

#### Module 1: Degree work, 16,5 credits

Through an iterative and exploratory process and with context, stakeholders, different actors, aesthetics and ethics in mind, the student develops and materialises a design proposal on an artistic basis. The design proposal consists of one or more artefacts with the potential to lead towards sustainable development.

#### Module 2: Written thesis, 7,5 credits

The student writes an essay in parallel with the degree project. This work constitutes a visual and written complement to the student's design proposal and presents its purpose and design process, as well as discusses the design proposal in relation to relevant fields. The student argues for the relevance of the work, as well as

its artistic, social, environmental and ethical aspects.

### **Module 3: Exhibit, Reflect and Project, 6 credits**

The module includes planning and building an exhibition environment. The aim is to create a comprehensible spatiality where the context, actors, aesthetics and ethics of the design proposal are key to its realisation. During and after the exhibition, the student shall critically reflect on the response given to the project and the exhibition, as well as speculate on potential development opportunities for the design proposal.

### **Intended learning outcomes**

#### **Module 1: Degree work, 16,5 credits**

After completing this module, the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to independently and creatively contribute to knowledge development in design,
- demonstrate the ability to independently identify, formulate and solve advanced artistic and design problems, as well as thoroughly articulating them,
- critically reflect on one's own and others' artistic approach to design,
- show the ability to plan and with adequate methods carry out qualified artistic tasks within given time frames,
- demonstrate the competence and knowledge required to work autonomously in a professional capacity,
- demonstrate ability to propose possibilities for sustainable development through design-driven explorations
- demonstrate the ability to formulate and shape design proposals from a holistic perspective with regard to different contexts, situations and stakeholders,
- demonstrate ability to communicate complex challenges regarding the creation of physical and/or virtual three-dimensional artefacts,
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of design, including both broad and significant in-depth skill.

#### **Module 2: Written thesis, 7,5 credits**

After completing this module, the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to visually, and in writing, document and account for the design process,
- demonstrate the ability to make judgements in the field of design with regard to relevant artistic, societal and ethical aspects,
- analyse and critically reflect on the possible consequences of their own design proposal from social, ecological and economic perspectives,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and take responsibility for ongoing learning,
- demonstrate the ability to reflect on the feasibility and relevance of their own design proposal based on a well-considered scenario,
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of design, as well as in-depth insight into current research relevant to the degree project.

### **Module 3: Exhibit, Reflect and Project, 6 credits**

After completing this module, the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss their work and artistic issues visually, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts and vis-à-vis various stakeholders,
- demonstrate the ability to speculate on potential
- development opportunities for the design proposal,
- design an adapted spatiality in which the design proposal is communicated.

## **Entry requirements**

Bachelor's degree of Fine Arts of at least 180 credits in design, or equivalent, as well as an approved grade in English 6, or equivalent knowledge.

In addition, 45 credits from the master's programme in Design Ecologies year 1 is required, as well as a passing grade in the course module Formulation, 15 credits, from the course Design WITH (MDE214) within year 2 of the programme.

## **Forms of examination**

Written, oral and visual (including physical models or prototypes) presentations. Tutoring and joint discussions. Presentations in all parts of the course.

The examiner is responsible for providing grading criteria for the examination and ensuring that these are made available in the course description.

Students who receive the grade Fail (underkänd) in an examination are entitled to take a further five tests as long as the course is given, in order to achieve the grade Pass (godkänd). Students who fail an examination twice by an examiner are entitled to request that another examiner is appointed to decide grades for the test. A request should be made to the Head of Department.

If there are special reasons, or a need for adaptation for a student with an approved decision on special educational support for disability, the examiner may decide to deviate from the course syllabus regulations regarding the form of examination.

This may include options such as substitute assignments or exemptions from compulsory course components. Content and learning outcomes, expected skills, knowledge and abilities may not be altered.

## **Reading list and other study material**

Reading lists are presented in the module descriptions.

## **Additional information**

The department is responsible for other essential information, such as detailed teaching methods and grading criteria, to be available for students before the start of the course.

This course may not be credited towards a degree together with similar courses taken and passed, where the content is completely or partly the same as the content of this course.

The course is a mandatory part of the Master's Programme in Design Ecologies.

Students may request that examination according to this syllabus is conducted no more than twice during one two-year period after it has expired.

To begin studies in year 2, a passing grade in courses corresponding to at least 45 credits from year 1, or equivalent, is required. In addition, a passing grade in the course module Formulation 15 credits from the course Design WITH (MDE214) semester 3 is required to begin the course Design WHAT (MDE216) semester 4.

The course is taught in English.

This syllabus replaces the syllabus for MDE215 Design WHAT.