**SYLLABUS**

course description

The course belongs to the class “caratterizzante” (alternativa) in the MA in Eco-Social Design (LM-12). This course is a compulsory optional subject in the area “Observe, analyse & apply”

| Course title                  | Social Studies of Design and Sociology  
|                              | Area: Observe, analyse & apply          |
| Course code                  | 96112                                    |
| Scientific sector            | SPS/08 – Sociologia dei processi culturali e comunicativi and SPS/07 |
| Degree                       | Master in Eco-Social Design (LM-12)      |
| Semester                     | I                                         |
| Year                         | 1st and 2nd                              |
| Credits                      | 6                                         |
| Modular                      | No                                        |
| Lecturer                     | Alvise Mattozzi                          |
|                             | office F4.04, e-mail alvise.mattozzi@unibz.it, tel. +39 0471 015227, |
|                             | Webpage [https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/11597-alvise-mattozzi](https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/11597-alvise-mattozzi) |
| Scientific sector of the lecturer | SPS/08                                |
| Teaching language            | English                                  |
| Teaching assistant (if any)  | -                                        |
| Office hours                 | Friday 17-18                             |
| Teaching language            | English                                  |
| Total lecturing hours        | 30                                       |
| Total hours of self-study and/or other individual educational activities | about 120                                |
| Attendance                   | recommended                              |
Course description

The course intends to introduce the students to the various relations existing between social sciences and design. On the one hand, the course will provide students with knowledge about how social sciences have been tackling and are tackling design intended as a variegated set of practices and as artifacts. On the other hand, however, the course also intends to introduce the students to the ways design has been tackling, is tackling and is challenging social sciences. Both directions of the relations between social sciences and design (“social sciences → design” and “design → social sciences”) will provide hints, cases and examples related to the issue of care and will be always referred to the work students of the first semester will do in the Don Bosco quarter.

The course will start by questioning the notion of “the social” as it has been traditionally used within social sciences and within design, especially within social design literature. Such questioning will allow the class to see how the notion of the social needs to be rearticulated in order to provide the ground for a productive interaction between social sciences and design.

The rest of the course will address issues such as:

- how designing can be seen as practice;
- conflict and controversies and their mapping, which will allow the students to see how social sciences and design can collaborate;
- the integration of social sciences within design research;
- how design and social sciences can address practice or behaviour change;
- how social sciences can provide notions, categories and models to describe-analyze the social role of artifacts.

By addressing these issues the course will introduce sociological notions and categories - action, actor, network, structure/agency, micro/macro, social capital, practice, behaviour, lifestyle, script, domestication - as well as research methods, techniques and tools.

Educational objectives

Students will be able to:

• collaborate with other designers and experts in order to develop and implement an integrated project;
• take into account the social relevance of their interventions occurring within the tension between global and local dimensions;
• take into account the social aspects that characterize a territory, a community and a group of people;
• integrate social aspects in project design while considering the tension, which occurs between the local and the global dimensions;
• develop an individual way of thinking, leading to critical judgements and self-assessments;
• communicate, multilingually in a convincing way, through a variety of modalities (written, oral, visual);
• talk to experts about the project;
• read experts’ articles, studies and reports related to one’s own project issues and integrate those analyses with one’s own project design;
• organize a research project while identifying relevant studies and researches, experts to collaborate with, methods and instruments to adopt;
• outline the cultural and social territorial framework where the students will intervene;
• set up a field work or an inquiry in order to define the socioeconomic framework, by exchanging ideas with researchers and experts’ students will collaborate with;
• understand specialist literature so as to integrate it within their own research project;

Knowledge will be acquired in the following fields:
• the relations between social sciences and design and the main methods, techniques and tools through which such relations can be carried out, developed and transformed.

List of topics covered
- Action
- Actor
- Agency
- Artifacts
- Behaviour
- Care
- Description
- Domestication
- Lifestyle
- Network
- Micro/Macro
- Practice
- Script
- Social Capital
- Structure

Teaching format
Most of the classes will consist in frontal lectures and discussions. In few cases, the discussion will be based on class exercises, most of the times on home assignments, usually readings.
Some classes will consist in class exercises.
Home assignments are related to the reading and comparison of articles.
Some classes will be tackled through an interdisciplinary co-presence with other teachers.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
Students will learn how social sciences and design can productively dialogue.
At the end of the course students should be able to understand their interventions in relation to the broader coordinates of the social sciences’ debates and to position their intervention in relation to such debates, also in order to choose the most appropriate research methods and collaborators.
Applying knowledge and understanding
At the end of the course students should be able to find, understand and integrate social research into their design projects, as ground for their project’s choices and features.
At the end of the course students should be able to dialogue with social scientists in order to discuss about the sociological aspects of their projects.
At the end of the project students should be able to discuss about and choose the appropriate method to gather data about their design projects.

Making judgments
At the end of the course students should be able to assess the relevance and value of a social sciences and their methods for design and vice-versa.

Communication skills
At the end of the course students should be able to communicate with social scientists about their design projects.

Learning skills
At the end of the course students should be able to get deeper into the social sciences’ debates and to learn about specific social researches related to the specificities of their design projects.

Assessment

Written and oral.
Students will be assessed considering:
- the results of the home assignments assigned during the course
- the result at the final exam of the oral discussion about the relation between what done in the sociology course and what has been designed for the semester project course
- participation in class activities
- the ability to integrate course topics and issues into the final presentation of the design project

Assessment language: English

Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks

- home assignment will contribute to the composition of the final mark for a 70% (21/30)
- the discussion at the final exam will contribute for another 25% of the final mark (7.5/30)
- the last 5% (1.5/30) will be determined by participation in class activities or on the OLE platform and in the way they are able to integrate sociological issue at the project exam
- in order to be able to take the final exam students need to have a sufficient average (at least 11 points out of 21) in the home assignments.

Evaluation criteria change for every assignment but tend to always consider the ability to compare essays among them or with empirical findings and/or observations. More in general evaluation
criteria consider not only the way in which the assignment brief has been fulfilled, but also the
capacity to take into account other parts of the course and to make connections among them, as well
as with possible personal experiences as design student.

Required readings
Required readings will be communicated the first day of class and will be available on OLE and in the
Reserve Collections Online and in the Library.

Supplementary readings

General reference for concept and categories:
➢ A. Abbott, “Basic Debates” in A. Abbot, Methods of Discovery. Heuristics for the Social Sciences,

Readings related to the framing of the debate around the notion of “the social”:
➢ B. Latour, Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory, Oxford
➢ O. Pyythinen, More-than-Human Sociology. A New Sociological Imagination. Palgrave-

Readings related to the relation between social sciences and design:
Routledge, 2015.
and Technology Studies and from Social Theories of Consumption and Practice”. Design Issues,
23(2), 2007, pp. 3–16.
➢ B. Latour and A. Yaneva, “Give Me a Gun and I Will Make All Buildings Move : An ANT’s View
of Architecture”, in R. Geiser (eds.), Explorations in Architecture: Teaching, Design, Research,
Birkhaeuser, pp. 80-89.
➢ A. Mattozzi, “Teaching Everything in Relationship: Integrating Social Sciences and Design in
➢ N. Nova, Beyond Design Ethnography: How Designers Practice Ethnographic Research. SHS

Readings related to the sociological debate around the sociality of artifacts:

Readings related to conflicts and controversies analysis and mappings:

Readings related to care: