

MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION (MUEIDC)

SYLLABUS

INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES BASED ON PRACTICE

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2026-27

SUBJECT TYPE: Compulsory

SEMESTER: 1st

ECTS: 6

TEACHING HOURS: 45

HOURS OF AUTONOMOUS WORK: 105

TOTAL HOURS: 150

LANGUAGE/S: Spanish

CODE: 16929

TEACHING TEAM: Manuela Valtchanova (PhD) mvaltchanova@elisava.net

PRESENTATION OF SUBJECT / GOALS

This subject will delve into different perspectives of practice-based research with special interest in experimentation through design about human habitats. With the aim of providing different ways of building working hypotheses and research axes through practice, a non-linear exploratory process is proposed that cumulatively outlines an area of interest in its sociological, political, cultural, and creative complexity. The subject contemplates the generation of results that allow the evolution of the project intuition of each student in a line of research committed to social innovation. Four perspectives of exploration are proposed that seek to expand project practice through speculation, interdisciplinarity, contextual criticality, and experimentation with the method. Transversally, the subject proposes a body of critical reflection on the collective imaginary of the human habitat, interweaving popular culture, academic debate, and exemplary cases from the History of Design. During the course, content and competencies will be developed that reflect and propose actions on the active role of design in the urban context. The objective is to articulate a specific argumentation from this perspective to integrate it into the research proposal of the TFM.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

This subject does not specifically incorporate any SDGs.

CONTENTS

Block 1: Culture in action and imaginaries of the city

- Storytelling and narrative creation methodologies.
- Cinema, literature and the image of the city.
- Popular culture as a research context

Block 2: Practice-based perspectives of creative exploration

- Speculative perspective: design fiction, emergent habitats.
- Interdisciplinary perspective: contextuality, situated practices.
- Social perspective: Collaboration, problematized creative authorship, active citizenship.

- Methodological perspective: serious games and design through play, operational cartography first-person actions.

Block 3: Project criticality

- Expanded design approaches.
- Processes of critical interaction between subject and context through design

TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

- P1-Work sessions with the whole class group with the teacher
- P2-Small group work sessions with the teacher
- P3-Individual tutoring sessions with the teacher
- P5-Individual Autonomous Work Sessions
- P6-Autonomous group work sessions

COMPETENCIES

- Configuring new realities based on the interpretation of the historical, social, cultural, economic and technological context (G2)
- Students are able to integrate knowledge and face the complexity of formulating judgments based on information that, being incomplete or limited, includes reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments (CB8)
- Acting with a spirit and critical reflection in the face of knowledge in all its dimensions, showing intellectual, cultural and scientific concern and commitment to rigour and quality in professional demand (T1)
- Exercising active citizenship and individual responsibility with a commitment to democratic values, sustainability and universal design, based on practices based on learning, service and social inclusion (T5)
- Carrying out research proposals in Design, adapting the methodology to the purpose and the means available (E4)
- Discovering and analysing the ethical implications of design as an agent of socio-cultural configuration, integrating this analysis into a reflective decision-making process in the different phases of the project (E7)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Evaluating and selecting the appropriate scientific theory and the precise methodology to formulate judgments, including a reflection on the social or ethical responsibility linked to the solution proposed in each case. (M2-1)
- Taking responsibility for their own professional development and specialisation in the field of design. (M2-2)
- Conveying in a clear and unambiguous way results from scientific and technological research, as well as the most relevant foundations on which they are based. (M2-3)
- Globally evaluating the learning processes carried out according to the plans and objectives set, and establishing individual and team improvement measures. (M2-4)
- Showing attitudes of respect towards linguistic, social and cultural diversity. (M2-5)
- Appropriately using oral language (verbal and non-verbal) in personal and professional interaction in Catalan, Spanish and/or English. (M2-6)
- Defining a research project within the fields of social communication, branding, services, products, environment or mixed. (M2-7)

- Planning and executing design research strategies based on the established premises, conditioning factors and objectives. (M2-8)
- Using appropriate language for the oral communication of the proposals, adapting the discourse and arguments to the audience to reach an optimal level of communication between professionals, academics and/or technicians. (M2-9)
- Distinguishing the values present in today's society in order to foresee actions from the world of design and communication. (M2-10)

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Each subject will present at the beginning of the course its WORK PLAN where the didactic activities per week / session / autonomous work are recorded.

EXAMINATION**EXAMINATION SYSTEMS**

The evaluation of the subject will be based on continuous monitoring of the student's academic work throughout the course.

EXAMINATION SYSTEM	MINIMUM WEIGHTING	MAXIMUM WEIGHTING	FINAL WEIGHTING
P2-Follow-up of the work done	15	30	30
P5-Completion of required work or projects	50	90	70

EXAMINATION CRITERIA

The final grade of the subject will be the weighted average of the grades of the assessable activities according to the following table:

EXAMINATION ACTIVITY	WEIGHT	RECOVERABLE (up to 50%)	EXAMINATION SYSTEM
Theoretical reflection	30%	NO	P-2
Development of partial proposals	50%	NO	P-5
Development and public presentation of the project	20%	YES*	P-5

Students will have the option of retaking the retake tests. The retake tests will be carried out in the period of the semester allocated to this function, not being able to recover more than 50% of the subject.

* If the Recoverable Assessable Activities exceed 50%, the student body may choose up to a limit of 50%.

The unjustified non-submission of any assessable activity implies a grade of 0, even if the activity has been classified as Recoverable.

The Recoverable Activities can only be recovered when the student delivers them on the indicated date and with a grade higher than 3.

If access to the retake test is waived, the grade achieved in the first instance will be maintained.

In case of taking the recovery, the grade obtained will be the last, even if it is lower than the first.

To obtain a grade in the subject, attendance at 80% of the scheduled teaching-learning activities is required. Otherwise, it will be evaluated as "Not presented".

Plagiarism or copying of other people's work is penalised in all universities and, according to the Rules of Coexistence of the University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia, they constitute serious or very

serious offences. That is why in the course of this subject any indication of plagiarism or misappropriation of texts or ideas other people ([What is considered plagiarism?](#)) as well as the improper or undeclared use of Artificial Intelligence in an activity, automatically translates into a suspension and/or other disciplinary measures ([Normes de Convivencia de la Universitat de Vic-Universitat Central de Catalunya](#)).

For any questions or queries, see the Academic Regulations for the Master's Degree at UVic-UCC <https://www.uvic.cat/es/normativa/FEC/master#general>

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING RESOURCES

Research and Design

- Bradotti, R. 2020. *Conocimiento posthumano*. Gedisa.
- Dautrey, J.; Quinz, E. 2015. *Strange Design. From Objects to Behaviours*. It:editions.
- De Landa, M. 2006. *Hacia una nueva ontología de lo social*.
- Dunne, A.; Raby, F. 2013. *Speculative Everything*. MIT Press.
- Haraway, D. 1988. *Situated knowledges*.
- Latour, B. 1991. *Nunca fuimos modernos*. Siglo XXI.
- Manzini, E. 2015. *Design, when Everybody Designs*. MIT Press.

Design and city

- Corner, J. 1999. "The Agency of Mapping: Speculation, Critique and Invention". *Mappings*. Ed.
- Denis Cosgrove. Reaktion Books, 213-252.
- De Certeau, Michel. 1990. *L'invention du quotidien*. Gallimard.
- Franck, K. A. & Quentin S. 2007. *Loose Space: Possibility and Diversity in Urban Life*. London: Routledge.
- Jacob, Christian. 2006. *The Sovereign Map: Theoretical Approaches in Cartography Throughout History*. University of Chicago Press.
- Paez, Roger. 2019. *Operative Mapping: Maps as Design Tools*. Actar.
- Manzini, Ezio; Fuster, Albert y Paez, Roger. 2022. *Plug-ins: Design for City Making in Barcelona*. Actar.
- Sennett, Richard. 2018. *Building and Dwelling: Ethics for the City*. Farrar Strauss & Giroux.

Design and action

- Awan, Nishat, Tatiana Schneider, y Jeremy Till. 2011. *Spatial Agency. Other Ways of Doing Architecture*. Routledge.
- Bishop, Claire. 2004. "Antagonism and Relational Aesthetics". *October* 110: 51-79.
- Branzi, Andrea. 2020. *E=mc2. The Project in the Age of Relativity*. Editado por Elsa Cattaneo. New York, Actar Publishers.
- Dezeuze, Anna. 2017. *Almost Nothing. Observations on precarious practices in contemporary art*. Manchester University Press
- Dodd, Melanie. 2020. *Spatial Practices. Modes of Action and Engagement with the City*. Routledge.
- Foster, Hal, ed. 1983. *The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture*. Port Townsend, Bay Press.
- Groys, Boris. 2008. "The Obligation to Self-Design". *e-flux journal*, núm. #00. <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/00/68457/the-obligation-to-self-design/>.

The teaching staff will provide a specific bibliography at the beginning of the subject, if applicable.