

Syllabus

Descrizione corso

Titolo insegnamento	Social Studies of Design and Culture
Codice insegnamento	47210
Titolo aggiuntivo	
Settore Scientifico-Disciplinare	GSPS-06/A
Lingua	Inglese
Corso di Studio	Corso di laurea magistrale in Pratiche creative e Critiche contemporanee
Altri Corsi di Studio (mutuati)	
Docenti	prof. dr. Ingrid Kofler, Ingrid.Kofler2@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/18815
Assistente	
Semestre	Primo semestre
Anno/i di corso	2025/26
CFU	6
Ore didattica frontale	30
Ore di laboratorio	0
Ore di studio individuale	0
Ore di ricevimento previste	18
Sintesi contenuti	<p>In Social Studies of Design and Culture students are introduced to the dialogue between social sciences and design. More specifically students are introduced to the ways in which social sciences have tackled design, design practices and designed artifacts, but also, and through it, students are also introduced to the ways designers and design researchers have appropriated social research methods, approaches and theories in order to integrate, support and enhance their practices.</p> <p>Contents Summary</p>

	<p>Through this two-sided introduction to the dialogue between social sciences and design, students are then led to reflect, explore and describe the ways in which what they do as designers, as well as the artifacts they design, have a social relevance.</p> <p>Therefore, the course should be intended as an introduction to social research about design, as well as to how design, and specially design research, can be considered a form of social research.</p>
Argomenti dell'insegnamento	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping - Borders - Action - Social change - Artifacts - Social Networks - Micro/Macro - Practice - Social Capital - Structure - Future studies
Parole chiave	Sociology, Social Imaginaries, Future Studies, Qualitative Methods, Critical Studies
Prerequisiti	none
Insegnamenti propedeutici	none
Modalità di insegnamento	Most of the classes will consist in frontal lectures, exercises and discussions. The discussion will be based on class exercises, on home assignments, usually readings and experiments. Some classes will be tackled through an interdisciplinary co-presence with other teachers.
Obbligo di frequenza	recommended
Obiettivi formativi specifici e risultati di apprendimento attesi	<p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Know the history of spatial practices in art and design, and their main techniques and methodologies;</p> <p>Possess specific knowledge on the interactions between space and culture and on the sociopolitical implications of spatial practices;</p> <p>Understand the processes of transformation of space in the contemporary context, analyzing them considering the connections with other fields of knowledge, such as sociology, anthropology</p>

	<p>and urban sciences.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding</p> <p>Design and implement spatial interventions, exhibitions, artistic installations and design projects that explore and reinterpret public and private spaces.</p> <p>Use reading, analysis, mapping and visualization tools to analyze and communicate complex ideas relating to space.</p> <p>Create spatial interventions that respond to the needs of communities, promoting inclusiveness and social participation.</p> <p>Making judgements</p> <p>Collect and interpret cultural and material data from the fields of art, design, technology and spatial and curatorial practices, demonstrating the ability to place events, works and production operations in the historical context and current trends.</p> <p>Grasp the authority and evaluate the reliability of the various available sources.</p> <p>reflect and express an independent judgement, including on social, ethical and political-cultural issues.</p> <p>Interpret specific facts and events, within subject of their field of study.</p> <p>Communication skills</p> <p>Writing scientific and technical articles and reports with clarity and effectiveness.</p> <p>Presenting projects and ideas verbally in a professional and convincing manner.</p> <p>Learning skills</p> <p>The strengthening of the critical and operational autonomy of students.</p> <p>The development of their ability to choose, compare and adapt to new knowledge and technologies.</p>
Obiettivi formativi specifici e risultati di apprendimento	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborate with other designers and experts in order to develop

<p>attesi (ulteriori info.)</p>	<p>and implement an integrated project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 and critical 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' and academic 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. <p>Knowledge will be acquired in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.
<p>Modalità di esame</p>	<p>Written and oral.</p> <p>Students will be assessed considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the results of the assignments assigned during the course - participation in class activities and exercises - the ability to integrate course topics and issues into the final presentation and essay of the applied project <p>Guidelines for Non-Attending Students</p> <p>Students who do not regularly attend classes or fail to submit all required assignments during the course period will be considered non-attending. To complete the course, they must independently study a selection of essential readings provided by the instructor.</p>

	<p>Their final grade will be determined based on a comprehensive written examination. Non-attending students are responsible for managing their studies effectively to ensure thorough preparation</p> <p>Assessment for the final exam.</p> <p>N.B. – ALL STUDENTS TAKING THE EXAM AS NON-ATTENDING STUDENTS MUST AGREE UPON THE CONTENT WITH THE LECTURER.</p>
Criteri di valutazione	<p>Evaluation criteria will consider the ability to compare theories among them or with empirical findings and/or observations and/or critical reflections about social phenomena. More in general evaluation criteria consider not only how 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.</p>
Bibliografia obbligatoria	<p>Berger, P. L. (1999). Invitation to sociology. New York: Anchor Books.</p> <p>Gidley, J. M. (2017). The future: A very short introduction. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Kofler, I. (2023). Beyond Disciplinary Constraints: Designing Transdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in Real-World Laboratories. Societies, 13(9), 205.</p> <p>Lupton, D. (2018). Towards design sociology. Sociology Compass, 12(1).</p> <p>Mills, C. Wright (1959). The sociological imagination. New York: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>V. Houtum, H. (2024). Free the map. From Atlas to Hermes a new cartography of borders and migration.</p> <p>Further readings will be communicated during the course.</p>
Bibliografia facoltativa	
Altre informazioni	
Obiettivi di Sviluppo	Ridurre le disuguaglianze, Pace e giustizia, Città e comunità

Sostenibile (SDGs)	sostenibili
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