

Intro to Design Thinking: Syllabus

January 14, 2020 / 9:30 PM - 11:00PM EST

Important Links

[Workshop Hackpack](#)

Pre-workshop checklist, and resources to explore during and after the workshop.

[Hack the North 2020++ Event Schedule](#)

Check this out to stay up-to-date on activities, workshops, and other key happenings this weekend.

Motivator

Design thinking is used in industry as a way to brainstorm new ideas, tap into diverse perspectives and approach problem solving through empathy and creativity. It helps create solutions, products and services that are truly needed and valued by people.

What you will gain from this workshop is an introductory understanding of design thinking and how it is applied to solve user-centred problems. Design thinking is valuable, because it helps innovators approach problem solving from a human point-of-view. In addition, you can use the frameworks taught in this workshop to future hackathons, or any scenario that requires creative problem solving and collaborative team work.

Prerequisite Knowledge

No prerequisite knowledge is required to participate in the workshop. Check out the user personas we'll be using as the basis of our user research and empathy exercise.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand basic principles of design thinking and how it can be applied
2. Get familiar with key tools from the design thinking toolbox: empathy maps, needs statements and big ideas
3. Learn how to approach challenging problems in new, user-centric ways

Timeline (1.5 hour)

Time	Module	Description
5 min.	Introduction	What is Design Thinking? Why use Design Thinking? Intro to Workshop Design Prompt
15 min.	Empathy	Understanding Users, Watch a video: User insights, How to create an Empathy Map
10 min.	Hands on Activity #1: Empathy Maps	Create your own Empathy Map on Mural
15 min.	Define	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How to define the problem- How to create a good Needs Statement- Challenges of Needs Statements
10 min.	Hands On Activity #2: Needs Statement	Create your own Needs Statement on Mural
15 min.	Ideation	Generate ideas and potential solutions, How to creatively ideate, Big ideas
10 min.	Hands on Activity #3: Ideation	Create your own Big Ideas on Mural
10 min.	Wrap Up, Q&A, Thank you!	Key take-aways and questions