

Open VSD Design Project: Design Brief

Objective

The purpose of the project is to allow you to explore the application of value sensitive design in some depth for a problem that interests you. The topic of the project is up to your group. The main goal: *Choose a topic that interests you and that you care about!*

In general, you should pursue the conceptual, technical, and empirical investigations while giving emphasis to one kind of investigation.

The challenges of this project are: (a) to define and frame a specific problem; (b) to rigorously apply VSD theory and method; and (c) to develop your skills in reflective practice. Be iterative and integrative within the limits of about 4 weeks.

Your goal is to show your knowledge of value sensitive design and your ability to creatively apply your knowledge.

Your Group

You will work in groups of 3 or 4 – decided by you. The instructor, if necessary, will help with this process.

Project Scope

Given the limited time, it will be difficult or impossible to carry out the entire tripartite methodology and pursue the three types of investigations in an iterative and integrative way. So, we will constrain the scope of the project.

Simply put, you should decide how much effort you will spend on each of the three kinds of investigations such that you should spend at least 50% of your time on one kind of investigation and no less than 15% on any of the other investigations. You might spend, for example, about 30% of your time on conceptual and technical investigations and 70% of your time on an empirical investigation, perhaps conducting a survey with 30 participants and a semi-structured interview with 4-6 participants. Alternatively, you might spend 20% of your time on a conceptual investigation, 60% of your time on a technical investigation – for example, creating a 5-minute video prototype and low fidelity prototype – and 20% of your time on an empirical investigation of the prototype, perhaps involving 4-6 participants. Spending 33% of your time on each type of investigation is not allowed.

The choice of how you allocate your time to the three different kinds of investigations is up to you. That said, you should carefully plan your approach and have good rationale for your allocation of effort.

Project Logistics and Milestones

Studio #7	Groups present ideas and submit project plan
Studio #8	Project studio
Studio #9	Project studio
Week #10	Poster presentations
Week #11	Your final report is due

Report Structure

Possible report headings are shown below. Your work might be organized as outlined below, or you might decide on another, more appropriate structure. That is up to you.

Your report should be 6 pages. **Note:** Please use the report template on the course website. You will need to be selective and to write concisely and elegantly.

Possible Section Headings	Purpose
Authors (required)	Include your names and email addresses.
Title (required)	Give your report an interesting title that summarizes the whole project. (Note: Please do not include INFO-444 or other word junk in the title.)
Keywords (required)	Include a list of 3-5 keywords
Abstract (required)	Include a 200-word abstract. The abstract should summarize the <u>whole</u> project, answering: (1) What was the problem, concern or interest? (2) How was it engaged? (3) What was learned?
Introduction (required)	Briefly introduce the project, the project framing, and questions. Cite 3 – 6 peer reviewed or authoritative papers/reports.
Background (optional) Sub-section ...	Summarize work that is related to your project. It is often useful to include two or three sub-sections. Explore related examples and cite relevant literature.
Design Process (required)	Explicate your <u>design process</u> and the sociotechnical <u>design situation</u> . Present your timeline and give an overview of your process – A diagram is often helpful. Include how you allocated your time to the investigations – and give rationale. As appropriate include photographs that capture your work. As appropriate please connect your VSD approach to user-centered design.
Conceptual Investigation ...	For the body of your report you might include sections for conceptual, technical, and empirical investigations. Within these top-level sections, you might then include the appropriate subsections. Alternatively, after you introduce your design process you might include a series of sections for each method that you employed. Some possible sub-sections or sections include, among others:
Technical Investigation ...	
Empirical Investigation ...	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and indirect stakeholder analysis • Value definitions / • Benefits and harms analysis • Value scenarios / • Value sketches • Value-oriented semi-structured interview • Model of informed consent • Value dams and flows • Value-oriented prototype • Futures workshop • Policy analysis / • Co-evolution of policy and technical design • Envisioning Cards • Value Sensitive Action-Reflection Model
Discussion (required)	Discuss major findings of your research and design. Use sub-sections as needed, for example, “Lessons Learned,” “Design Insights,” “Policy Recommendations,” “Future Work,” among others.
Conclusion (required)	Bring your report to a conclusion, perhaps reiterating the main points of your project and future directions.

References	Include your references here.
Appendix A: Reflections on Design Process (required)	Briefly reflect on your project. What worked well? What would you do differently in the future? (1 page or less)
Appendix B: Reflections on Envisioning Cards (required)	If you used the Envisioning Cards, briefly describe how you used them. In what ways were they helpful (or not helpful)? Please explain. If you decided to not use the Envisioning Cards please explain why. (1 page or less)
Appendices ...	Include additional appendices as needed. For example, your semi-structured interview questions, wire-frames, early design sketches, video prototype scripts, and so on.

Expectations

- You pursue a project that you care about, that's important to you
- You find and frame a problem, concisely and clearly
- You bound and explore the problem with background literature
- You set out project goals and develop a robust process, employing the value sensitive design methodology
- You employ value sensitive design theory to shape your project and to discuss its implications
- You select and employ methods creatively and robustly
- Free of spelling and grammatical errors
- Good use of the report template and style
- Appropriate use of graphics and tables, well integrated with the text
- *Bonus*: Include an evocative graphic or photograph on first page for report
- All required report elements present
- Report structure is appropriate for the project
- Claims are supported with evidence
- Design process is documented and is robust
- Findings are nuanced and appropriately qualified and supported with evidence
- *Empirical work*: (1) Number of participants is reported; Their gender; and Their mean age and range. (2) Findings are presented in terms of numbers (e.g., Y/Z participations responded ...,")



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