

Data, Design & Society



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Data plays a pervasive role in modern society: we are all consumers and producers of data on a daily basis. Dealing with data is also important for all aspects of learning and research. By understanding how data is collected, how it can be interpreted, and how it functions in social and political processes, you will be better prepared for your undergraduate studies, for your future career, and for becoming an informed citizen.

[Data, Design and Society](#) (INFR08024) is a 20pt Level 8 course which will provide you with basic concepts, tools and a practice-based understanding of how data and design principles can support social innovation. By engaging in a team-based interdisciplinary project, you will address a contemporary social challenge that involves collecting, processing and analysing data as part of designing a prototype solution.

There are no course prerequisites, but students should be prepared to work with simple data analysis tools. There is a quota of 40 students for this course in academic year 2015/16.

SYLLABUS

- Design principles for social innovation
- Types of data, data formats and data collection methods
- Basic statistical properties of data sets, data quality
- Data cleaning, transformation and linkage
- Social science techniques for small scale experimentation and co-design
- Ethical and legal aspects of data collection and publication
- Data visualisation
- Using data to persuade, to inform and to support decision-making

ASSESSMENT

The course will be assessed by two pieces of coursework. These will involve collecting new data 'in the wild'; using data to inform and design a prototype solution to an existing social problem; and presenting the results in a report.