



UNSW Course Outline

DDES4200 Design Research Methods and Theory - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : DDES4200

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Art & Design

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Paddington

Campus : Paddington

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course introduces students to a range of philosophical, conceptual and theoretical methods and frameworks to help students develop their research skills and locate their design practice that critically reflects on contemporary design contexts. It is designed to help students

concurrently undertake a substantial honours level research project.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Critically situate design practice as a distinctive method of research from humanities and scientific research.
CLO2 : Interrogate and articulate philosophical and theoretical frameworks that critique historical and contemporary situated design discourse and practice.
CLO3 : Evaluate, integrate and position an understanding of the engagement and impact of design discourse, thinking and practice on responsible global political, ethical and sustainability issues.
CLO4 : Generate, apply and effectively communicate theoretical frameworks and methods to contemporary design discourse and practices.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Critically situate design practice as a distinctive method of research from humanities and scientific research.	• Mapping a Research Topic
CLO2 : Interrogate and articulate philosophical and theoretical frameworks that critique historical and contemporary situated design discourse and practice.	• Mapping a Research Topic
CLO3 : Evaluate, integrate and position an understanding of the engagement and impact of design discourse, thinking and practice on responsible global political, ethical and sustainability issues.	• Portfolio of practice-based / practice-led research methodologies
CLO4 : Generate, apply and effectively communicate theoretical frameworks and methods to contemporary design discourse and practices.	• Portfolio of practice-based / practice-led research methodologies

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Mapping a Research Topic Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 4: 04 March - 10 March
Portfolio of practice-based / practice-led research methodologies Assessment Format: Individual	60%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 11: 22 April - 28 April

Assessment Details

Mapping a Research Topic

Assessment Overview

In this task you will create an A3 sized visual map that charts your literature and precedence related to your research topic and write an accompanying synopsis.

Feedback will be provided on a regular basis in studio through discussion with peers and tutors. Summative assessment and feedback will be provided digitally based on the rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Critically situate design practice as a distinctive method of research from humanities and scientific research.
- CL02 : Interrogate and articulate philosophical and theoretical frameworks that critique historical and contemporary situated design discourse and practice.

Detailed Assessment Description

Identifying and organising information about precedents and literature connected to a contemporary challenge assists design researchers in defining and focusing the scope of a research project. Mapping relevant precedents and literature in design discourse locates your topic in relation to similar contemporary and historical design projects and publications. Finding the connections and differences between precedents and literature is an important skill because it contextualises your research. This task involves searching professional websites and magazines, exhibition catalogues, books and published academic papers, to find design projects and publications that relate to your Honours Studio Research Project. The visual map diagrams the connections & differences between projects & literature related to your topic with a 300-word synopsis that outlines your research topic, the contemporary issue or issues explored, what was discovered, and why the discovery is significant.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Portfolio of practice-based / practice-led research methodologies

Assessment Overview

In this task you will create a portfolio of practice-based / practice-led research methodologies to assist you in undertaking your Design Honours Studio Research Project.

Feedback will be provided on a regular basis in studio through discussion with peers and tutors. Summative assessment and feedback will be provided digitally based on the rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL03 : Evaluate, integrate and position an understanding of the engagement and impact of design discourse, thinking and practice on responsible global political, ethical and sustainability issues.
- CL04 : Generate, apply and effectively communicate theoretical frameworks and methods to contemporary design discourse and practices.

Detailed Assessment Description

Designers have developed a range of practice-based methodologies and approaches with which to develop research for scholarly and professional industry-based contexts. Developing design research with defined methodologies facilitates research as it delineates the strengths and weaknesses of the selected approaches. Developing a portfolio of creative methodologies and approaches means that you will have a research toolkit for application and development in the Design Honours Studio Research Project throughout the year and future professional design practice. This task engages with exploring a series of design research practice approaches with which designers develop an understanding of complex issues from a range of perspectives.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Professional and scholarly contexts for design research
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Locating your research topic in design
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Mapping connections and differences in precedents and literature
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Assessment
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Introduction to Task 2: Practice-based research in design - material transposition
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Studio	Study Week
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Creative Co-design and Participatory Practices
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Design Activism and Advocacy
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Speculative Critical Design and Cultural Probes
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Studio	Lecture and Studio focus - Research portfolio: Toolkit for the future

Attendance Requirements

Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes for each course in which they are enrolled. Failure to attend and participate in at least 80% of learning activities such as discussions, peer feedback, studio sessions, online activities, group work, etc., may result in you being flagged as at risk of failing the course. By punctually attending and actively participating in your classes you not only increase your own opportunities for developing your skills and knowledge, but will also help build a rigorous and engaged creative community with other students. If you are unable to attend classes, please inform your relevant Course Convenor. If the absence is for medical reasons, you will be required to present a medical certificate. If absences impact your ability to undertake assessment, then you should apply for [Special Consideration](#).

Course Resources

Recommended Resources

Bilge Merve Aktaş and Maarit Mäkelä, 2019, "Negotiation between the Maker and Material", International Journal of Design, 13:2.

Linda Candy, 2006, Practice-Based Research: A Guide, Creativity and Cognition Studios Report, Sydney.

Guy Julier, 2013, "From Design Culture to Design Activism", Design and Culture, 5:2

Elizabeth Sanders, and Pieter Jan Stappers, 2016, Convivial Toolbox Generative Research for the Front End of Design, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: BIS.

Thomas Markussen, 2013, "The Disruptive Aesthetics of Design Activism: Enacting Design Between Art and Politics", Design Issues, 29 (1), 38–50.

Matt Malpass, 2021, Chapter 2 History, Critical Design / Chapter 4 Criticism, Function and Discipline in Context, History, Theory, and Practices, Bloomsbury.

Sherry Turkle, 2007, Evocative Objects: things we think with, Cambridge Mass, MIT Press.

Josina Vink, & Katarina Wetter-Edman & Manuela Aguirre, 2017, "Designing for Aesthetic Disruption: Altering Mental Models in Social Systems through Designerly Practices", The Design Journal, 20, s2168- s2177

David Wang, 2007, Diagramming Design Research, Journal of Interior Design, 33:1.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is encouraged with quick check-in tutorial quizzes during the Term. The MyExperience survey provides insights on what's working and what's not which we reflect on when reviewing course material in the subsequent term.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Katherine Moline					No	Yes
	Katherine Moline					No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/>

[protocols-guidelines](#) for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externaleltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

School-specific Information

Risk of Failure Warnings

If you are at risk of failing the course, because of lack of attendance, low marks in assignments, failing to submit assignments, or lack of participation or engagement, you may be notified by email. Please ensure you read your university email, and respond to any official risk of failure warning promptly. NOTE – if the warning email is sent to your UNSW e-Mail address, it is considered as being read by you whether you check your UNSW email or not.

Late Submission Penalties

If you believe that circumstances will prevent you from submitting an assessment on time,

please notify your course convenor as soon as possible. There will be penalties applied for being late and a clear 'no later than' date beyond which submission won't be accepted. Where a Special Consideration is not applied for, and a student assessment is late, the following guidelines apply:

1. Up to 5 days after due date, a penalty of 5% (of maximum mark for assignment) will be applied for each day late (e.g. an assignment that is 3 days late would have its mark reduced by 15%). Please note - for the purpose of deduction calculation, a 'day' is each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission within the calendar year (including weekends and public holidays). Task with a percentage mark - If the task is marked out of 100%, late submission will attract a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. A 3 day late penalty will be applied ($3 \times 5\% = 15\%$). The essay receives a mark of 68%. The student's mark will therefore be reduced to 53% ($68\% - 15\%$).

2. Beyond 5 days late, no submission will be accepted.

Special Consideration

Please note that the University's Special Consideration process allows students to apply for an extension within 3 days of the assessment due date. This provides for more extensive extensions, subject to documentation, and Course Convenor approval. You can apply for special consideration online through my.UNSW.edu.au. More information about special consideration can be found here: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

NOTE: If you are experiencing issues related to your access to class material or difficulty with technology, make sure you notify your lecturer as soon as possible, well before any assessment due date. Last minute requests for extensions due to computer failure, file corruption, printing problems etc. do not qualify students for special consideration or extensions. Students are expected to maintain regular backups of their work at all times.

Educational adjustments

Educational adjustments can be applied to assessments if you are living with a disability, a long term medical condition, a mental health condition, and/or are a carer of individuals with a disability. The Equitable Learning Service (ELS) determines adjustments based on medical documentation and communicates these via an Equitable Learning Plan (ELP). To receive

educational adjustments for equitable learning support, you must first register with Equitable Learning Services (ELS). More information about Equitable Learning Services can be found here <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>

Supplementary Assessment

Supplementary assessments are available to students in this course who have failed an assessment but have subsequently had an application for Special Consideration approved by the university. The supplementary assessment may take a different form than the original assessment and will be defined by the course convenor - but it will address the same learning outcomes as the original assessment. If Special Consideration has not been awarded, the maximum mark that may be awarded for a supplementary assessment is 50% of the full assessment mark.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking the ideas, words, images, designs or objects of others and passing them off as your own. Plagiarism is a type of intellectual theft. Plagiarism can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement. Plagiarism can have serious consequences, so it is important that students be aware of what it is, and how to avoid it. All written submissions are automatically checked for plagiarism using the Turnitin site. For further information, please see the Academic Integrity & Plagiarism website <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>.

Referencing Requirements for Assessments

Your course convenor will inform you what referencing system this course follows. Useful guidelines on how to reference according to various systems can be found at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>.

You may follow these guidelines in your assessment tasks, or seek additional advice from your lecturer. Styles for Endnote are downloadable from the Endnote website. Accurate and correct referencing is an important academic prerequisite at University level, and if your work does not meet these requirements, it may be marked down, or in more serious cases, it may be treated as an instance of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Use of Generative AI

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Your work must be your *own* and where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, have been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work. In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply. If in doubt, please seek advice from the Course Convenor prior to using generative AI tools.

<https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/assessment/ai>

Health and Safety

Ensuring student and staff health and safety is very important at UNSW Art & Design. Health and safety is everyone's responsibility. As a student, you have a responsibility not to do anything that risks your own health and safety, or the health or safety of your fellow students, staff members or visitors. This means, for example, exiting the building during a fire drill; wearing personal protective equipment and clothing (PPEC) when staff or signage instructs you to do so; undertaking induction to using equipment or carrying out processes that require specific knowledge; and reporting hazards or incidents to your lecturer or supervisor as soon as you become aware of them. For more information, please see <https://safety.unsw.edu.au/>.

Additional Support and Resources

At UNSW you can also find support and resources if you need help with your personal life, getting your academic success on track or just want to know how to stay safe. See <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>.

Additional support for students is available by contacting the following centres:

- Student Support and Development <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Student Support Advisors: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/advisors>
- Mental Health Support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/mental-health-support>
- Academic Skills and Support <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/skills>
- UNSW IT Service Centre <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/>
- Student Gateway: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/equitable-learning>
- Faculty Resources and Support: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support>
- Arc: <https://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/>

After Hours Access to the Paddington Campus

The core operating hours for the Paddington Campus are below. All students have access to the campus during these hours:

- Monday to Friday 0800 – 2100
- Saturday 0900 – 1700

Some students are permitted to have “After Hours Access” (AHA) to the campus upon completion of a series of inductions. The inductions are dependent on location, as well as the types of activities undertaken in those locations. The first of these is this Primary Induction, and this must be completed online <https://my.artdesign.unsw.edu.au>. All students requiring AHA are required to complete this induction. The Primary Induction gives access to the following Low Risk areas:

Post Graduate Students

- PG Research students – Level 4 F Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons
- Master of Design students – Level 3 D Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons
- Master of Curating and Cultural Leadership students – D207, Computer Labs and Learning Commons

Honours Students

- Fine Arts – Level 3 F Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons
- Design – Level 1 E Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons
- Media Arts – Level 3 F Block, Computer Labs and Learning Commons

Subsequent inductions are workshop and lab specific, and are conducted face-to-face by the UNSW Art & Design Technical staff. Students and staff must first successfully complete the Primary Induction before requesting a Workshop/Lab specific Induction.

School Contact Information

UNSW School of Art & Design

Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture

Paddington Campus

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