DI209-15 Systemic Design

26/27

Department
Design Studies
Level
Undergraduate Level 2
Module leader
Adela Glyn-Davies
Credit value
15
Module duration
9 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will engage students in the processes and methods of Systemic Design. From systems thinking to practice, this module will prepare students for the processes of dealing with complexity as an aspiring designer. As a basis for sustainable innovation, this module will introduce students to systemic practice towards understanding how to research a system and its models, how to read and scope a system, how to map and synthesise it and scope design interventions in multiple areas of leverage towards systems change. This module will be linked to real life contexts of local and regional communities, where students will be able to engage and research how these groups are experiencing the systems around them whilst prompting them to learn how to recognise design mismatch and map this accordingly.
The module will challenge students to learn how to construct different exploratory and analytical systems maps as well study multi-stakeholder design thinking. As part of this module students will be undertaking critical ethical studies and learning inventive and standardised methods to systems research to enable a growing systemic tool kit ready for application in the public and private sectors. The focus of the module will be the explication and dissemination of systems narratives through design methods.

Module aims

This module aims to introduce students to concepts of systems thinking and systemic design. It

will aim to foster student's understanding of mapping methods and systems synthesis for application in complex large scale design problems. This learning journey will aim to enable student's abilities in dealing with complexity and uncertainty when designing for change through multi-solving methods. As such, the module serves a key purpose in the curriculum to bind student's emerging interdisciplinary practices with a holistic methodology with options of emerging specialisms in their final year. This module aims to prepare students for a plethora of design and change-making occupations in the public and private sector.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

In the 9 weeks students will be working on an externally written brief, set in regional levels of complexity, which the cohort will explore alongside practice-led methods tutorials. The module will culminate in multi-stage systems mapping and a systems narrative for dissemination.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- To demonstrate an understanding of systemic design and systems thinking.
- To demonstrate skills in systems mapping and explicating of systems narratives.
- To develop skills in working with and considering diverse stakeholder groups.
- To develop abilities in systemic and design research methods

Research element

Students will be undertaking research into how specific local or regional communities experience the systems around them. This will be done through standardised and inventive methods.

Interdisciplinary

Systemic design by nature is a multi and trans-disciplinary endeavour, therefore will entail a pluralistic and holistic approach to collaborating disciplines.

International

The content of this module is drawn from a broad set of international precedents and practitioners allowing for a multi-perspective exploration of design practice.

Subject specific skills

Systems thinking
Systems mapping.
Multi-solving.

Design thinking.
Systemic design process.
Facilitation of multi-stakeholder workshops.

Transferable skills

Systems thinking
Systems mapping.
Multi-solving.
Design thinking.
Systemic design process.
Facilitation of multi-stakeholder workshops.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Supervised practical classes	9 sessions of 3 hours (18%)
Private study	43 hours (29%)
Assessment	80 hours (53%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Students are required to undertake asynchronous activities as prompted by the facilitator as well as undertake qualitative research via field studies outside of scheduled contact hours. Alongside this students will work independently on their systems maps and reflective pieces, which will be reviewed in pitch and crit sessions.

Costs

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
Equipment and project costs	Materials will be supplied for workshop inductions and course-based teaching sessions. While there will be some provision of basic materials, students will drive their own practice and therefore may require a broader set of materials and/or tools than can be provided. This will be very individual and will be at the student's cost.	Student	£0.00
Printing and photocopying	On this module, students will be provided with printing	Department	£5.00

Category	Description	Funded by	Cost to student
	credit to the value of £5.00 per student.		

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Systems Map and Narrative	80%	40 hours	No

This assignment will consist out of a collection of systems maps that students will be developing and designing through the course of this module. Once synthesised and intersected with their community research this will lead students to the explicating of the corresponding systems narrative which will be delivered as part of the live assessment.

Reassessment component			
Resit - Systems Map and Narrative			Yes (extension)

You are required to produce a textual/visual analysis that critically maps and evaluates a systemic healthcare issue in Coventry. Your anlysis should provide systems narrative that considers the relationship between policy, service delivery, community realities and systemic inequalities – and consider where and how design can intervene not just at the level of surfaces, but at the level of systems conditions, narratives, and interdependencies. Accompanying your narrative should be at least 3 different types of system map which should be used to support the written analysis (1500 words max).

Assessment component			
Critical and Reflective Research Analysis	20%	40 hours	Yes (extension)

Student will be undertaking this analysis as a culmination of the brief and will be given a template to critically and reflectively account for their learning process and outcomes.

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Formal and informal, class-based, live assessments and written feedback in line with rubric.

Availability

Pre-requisites

To take this module, you must have passed:

- All of
  - DI102-15 Introduction to Design Practice

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UIPA-W201 BASc Design for Sustainable Innovation
- Year 2 of UDIA-H1L8 Undergraduate Design and Global Sustainable Development