

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Design Thinking
Designtänkande

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	FE6615
Valid from:	Autumn 2013
Date of approval:	2013-05-20
Department	Stockholm Business School
Main field:	Företagsekonomi
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

The syllabus is decided on by the School of Business Education Committee 2013-05-20.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

120 HE credits. Swedish upper secondary school course English B, or the equivalent, or one of the following tests. Cambridge CPE och CAE: Pass. IELTS : 6.0 (with no part of the test below 5.0). TOEFL (paper based): 550 (with minimum grade 4 on the written test part). TOEFL (computer based): 213. TOEFL (internet based): 79.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
6615	Design Thinking	7.5

Course content

Design thinking is a powerful tool for devising strategic interdisciplinary or entrepreneurial initiatives, permitting connections between concepts, methods and shifts of perspective that would otherwise be overlooked in a mono-disciplinary ‘problem-solving’ approach. Originating in design, but capable of being applied across a broad range of disciplines, design thinking brings a disruptive, game-changing potential to ways of working that have become routine.

People naturally have the ability for design thinking – it deploys the associative, improvisatory logic of play – but are typically encouraged to suppress it in favour of more dependable yet limited problem-solving methodologies.

For entrepreneurs who value the pursuit of validity and innovation over tradition and repetition, this course will equip you with the core skills for furthering such aims. It takes a practice-led approach, teaching design thinking skills through a mix of lectures, workshops and assignments. Having acquired the fundamentals of design thinking, students are then encouraged to explore ways of extending the established techniques – incorporating elements from, for example, other creative and design disciplines such as plotting, characterization, visualisation, role-playing, story-boarding and experience prototyping.

As the course focuses on themes and speculative, post-critical prototyping of actual “wicked” problems, teaching is conducted in an interactive manner with participants expected to take an active role throughout the course.

Learning outcomes

The purpose of this course is to teach PhD, MFA, MSc, and MA students the advanced methods for design thinking.

The learning outcomes for the course are for the participants to be able to independently:

- Acquire and execute design thinking methods.
- Evaluate and organize the concepts such a methodology generates.
- Discuss and critically assess the strengths, weaknesses and innovative potential of proposals from course colleagues.
- Develop, document and articulate a coherent design proposal based on results generated.
- Demonstrate how design thinking can change and enlarge the student's own disciplinary 'world view'.
- Develop and argue for an interdisciplinary entrepreneurial initiative inspired by the design thinking process.

Education

The course combines lectures with seminar discussions, workshops, group and individual presentations by the students as well as leaders in the field.

The course language is English.

Forms of examination

Examination

The final grade will be based on:

1. Students, working in interdisciplinary teams, will be asked to use design thinking as a creative problem solving method in order to produce an interdisciplinary proposal, which is both actionable and scalable and designed to solve a so-called "wicked problem" in the larger world, i.e. global water shortage, or the use of MOOC's to provide a global educational program to alleviate illiteracy. The presentation will need to clearly define the advantages of design thinking once compared to other more conventional creative problem solving methods.
2. A peer-review evaluation from other members of your interdisciplinary team. You will be reviewed on your abilities at interdisciplinary leadership, creative problem solving and the ability to employ design thinking.
3. Successful completion of individual assignments usually in the form of written examinations or individual oral presentations in class.
4. Attendance and being prepared without prompting
5. The final grade will be weighted on the following percentages given the four above criteria: 1. 50%, 2. 20%, 3. 20% and 4. 10%

Grading

Grades are given in accordance with a criterion-based scale where A, B, C, D and E are passing grades and Fx and F are failing grades. The grade Fx is possible to supplement in order to obtain the grade of E. Supplementation should be completed no later than three weeks after the final grade is announced, after which the grade Fx is converted into the grade F.

Receiving a final grade for the course requires the grade E in all individual parts of the examination.

Attendance is mandatory.

Grading criteria will be communicated in writing at course start.

Students having received the grade E or higher in the final examination are not allowed to retake the examination. Students who receive a grade of Fail is entitled to take at least four additional examinations as

long as the course is given in order to achieve a passing grade.

Interim

In the event of major changes to the content or the required readings of the course, or suspension of the course altogether, students are entitled to an opportunity to retake the examination according to the present syllabus once each semester during the subsequent three semesters after the change has taken effect.

Limitations

The course cannot be included as part of a degree in conjunction with other similar courses accomplished at other universities in Sweden or abroad.

Misc

The course is offered within the framework of the Stockholm School of Entrepreneurship.
Responsible institution: University College of Arts, Crafts and Design (Konstfack).

Required reading

Required and supplementary readings are determined by the Education Committee and will be announced at the beginning of each semester the course runs.