



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University

# Built Environment

IDES2023

Design Theory 4: Methods



Course Outline – Term 3, 2020

## Disclaimer

Information within this document is subject to change. The full and most accurate course outline will be available in Moodle closer to the start of the term in which the course is offered.

## 1. COURSE STAFF

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## 2. COURSE DETAILS

<b>Credit Points</b>	6 units of credit (uoc)
<b>Workload</b>	Approx. 150 hours including class contact hours, weekly individual and group online learning activities, readings, class preparation, and assessment activities.
<b>Teaching Times and Location</b>	Find details in timetable <a href="http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au">http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au</a>

## Description

The course introduces a range of established Industrial Design research methods. These are methods in which students will apply some rigour to activities such as observation of user behaviours, simulation of Industrial Design alternatives, and analysis of available information. Lectures, case studies and online resources will provide a theoretical platform for students, but learning will include application, practice and reflective discussion of methods in Industrial Design challenges.

The focus is on developing rigour around academic research skills and writing within the context of Industrial Design research. Students will be given a list of specific topics to choose from to start their Industrial Design research process. The term will culminate with a Industrial Design Research Report, covering problems and/or opportunities identified for the selected topic, a literature review, data gathering, synthesis and analysis of information and research results.

## Aims

- Deepen students' understanding of the users, in terms of their habits, behaviours, and emotions; through observation, analysis and interpretation.
- Introduce students to theories and approaches to understanding existing and developing new products.
- Deepen students' understanding of design thinking and the Industrial Design process.
- Introduce to various methods for decoding of Industrial Design forms and values.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

At the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and define design problems/opportunities.
2. Evaluate current and proposed designs with research methods such as empathy, observation, simulation, co-designing, creative thinking, and iterative processes.
3. Apply and practice methods in an iterative design process supported with sketching and modelling techniques as a means of further evaluation.
4. Reflect and report on the impact of research methods in design projects, revealing both theoretical understanding and knowledge acquired through practice.

## 3. ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Weight	CLOs Assessed
1. Project - Assignment 1. Literature review	25%	1, 2, 4
2. Project - Assignment 2. Researching with people	30%	1, 2, 3
3. Report - Assignment 3. Critical reflection + Final Design Research	25%	1, 2, 4
4. Other - Peer Review and Discussion	20%	1, 2, 4

## 4. COURSE IMPROVEMENT AND FEEDBACK

Feedback from students is an integral part of improving courses and teaching approaches. One of the primary mechanisms of feedback is myExperience, which we strongly urge all students to complete at the end of term. Course convenors use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. This is communicated in Moodle in the myFeedback Matters page.