

The New Designer (Manuel Lima) - Seminar instructions

The author has divided the contents of the book into three broad (but interlocking) themes, and we will base the seminar on this structure. A constellation of groups will read, analyze, present, and discuss each theme.

Preparation for the seminar

All students should read the Preface and Conclusions (Chapter 10)

We divide the book's themes between the groups in the course as follows:

- Theme 1, Personal impact: Groups 1, 5 & 8
- Theme 2, Societal impact: Groups 2, 3 & 6
- Theme 3, Environmental impact: Groups 4 & 7

The theme is to be read and discussed within the group. The members of each group must formulate some discussion points (at least 4 per group) to take up during the seminar. These should be published in a Wiki (to be found on Moodle) by Friday 17th May, 12.00 at the latest.

For example, for Theme 1, Personal impact, this means that at least 12 points for discussion will be published in the Wiki (there may be some overlap between the groups).

During the seminar

The seminar will be a plenary session – all participants are present at all times – and the themes will be presented and discussed in the above order.

Phase 1

We begin with a very brief introduction to the seminar (ca. 5 minutes).

Phase 2

The seminar continues with a series of discussions. Each theme discussion will be “chaired” by the teachers. The groups responsible for each theme present and discuss with one another their previously published discussion points, also allowing for discussion with the rest of the participants. We may not, however, have time to discuss all the published discussion points, so they should be prioritized (ca. 25-30 minutes per theme).

Phase 3

A final discussion and summary of the material, to round off the seminar (ca. 10 minutes).

Participation

As is normal in the course, group participation is compulsory, in that at least one member of each group must attend the seminar. All group members are, naturally, encouraged to participate.

Above and beyond...

The book has been chosen because it discusses aspects of design from a past, present and future perspective: Where have we come from? Where are we now and where are we, as designers, going? What are our responsibilities? What do our efforts mean in the larger scheme of things?

Although you have been instructed to focus on a specific theme, we strongly recommend that you read more than your specific theme. Even if you do not read everything in detail, you are advised to skim the contents of all the chapters. This will also help you follow the discussions of the themes.