Course: Serious Game Design — credits: 5

Course code	GTVB22ELSG
Name	Serious Game Design
Study year	2025-2026
ECTS credits	5
Language	English
Coordinator	E.A. Shenderov
Modes of delivery	Tutorial
Assessments	Serious Game Design - Other assessment

Learning outcomes

Learning Outcomes

A1. The student analyses own and others' assumptions and evaluates the relevance of contexts when developing a solution to a complex but structured problem.

A3. The student can construct concepts and relates these to relevant theory and the needs of the users.

D3. The student can analyse the user experience, taking UX practices into account, to improve the solution.

E1. The student can plan, implement, monitor and manage process-based projects in a complex but structured context.

F2. The student can experiment with innovative concepts to address complex or complicated situations.

Content

With a growing interest in the world for "Games to Grow", "Edugames" and other initiatives, the field of Serious Gaming is growing, and there is a need for well-thought-out games which teach technical and critical thinking skills developed by professionals. This Elective will dive into how "Learning Mechanics" translate to "Game Mechanics" and how games can be designed and facilitated with the purpose of solving local problems for a student-defined audience.

By experiencing and analyzing various Serious Games, students will comprehend the effectiveness and utility of games as solutions for complex problems. Through research and testing, students will define a problem statement for a self-chosen target audience. They will then test a prototype to determine its effectiveness and analyze the results. To complete the serious game cycle, students will create a facilitation manual that accompanies their serious game.

Assignment

The student works on an assignment from a real-world client. They make a Serious Game Solution prototype and accompanying Facilitation Manual.

The Prototype needs to be based on research on and understanding of the target audience for the case. It also needs to be tested and experienced by the target audience and client as well as addressing the problem statement.

The Facilitation Manual follows the CMGT dresscode and is easy to comprehend. It needs to include the learning goals for the target audience and explains how the Serious Game Solution helps achieve those goals. The Facilitation Manual also has explanatory notes on the development of the game and explains how the game needs to be set up and played / experienced. It describes the roles and tasks of the facilitator before, during and after the Serious Game experience.

Objective:

The student will research, prototype, and test a serious game solution to a problem for a specific target audience. The student will write a Facilitation manual and prototype.

Description of the Assessment task

During the course, the student learns the process for designing a serious game solution to a self-chosen problem. The student conducts research into the problem, defines learning goals which are used to inform the design requirements of the Serious Game solution. The design requirements inform the game mechanics used in the serious game. The student hands in a Serious Game prototype and accompanying Facilitation Manual. In it, they explain how the prototype is run AND how to maximise results during the reflection exercise afterwards.

The student hands in a Serious Game Prototype and the accompanying Facilitation Manual through blackboard. This prototype

can be either digital or physical. The Facilitation Manual needs to be delivered in PDF format.

Included in programme(s)

Creative Media & Game Technologies
Minor Game Design & Development
CMGT Exchange Minor Game Design & Development

School(s)

School of Communication, Media & IT

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