Introduction to Design



We're delighted you're thinking about studying at Brunel University London.

Our lecturers have put together the following information to help you prepare for your course. This will give you a snapshot of the materials and reading list you'll be using. You'll get a full breakdown of information before you enrol.

On our website you can also find out more about your modules and chat to a current student.

If you have any more questions, please get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming you to Brunel.

Sample lecture/coursework questions

- 1. Select a household object, for example a Bluetooth speaker. Create a line drawing of the object using 3 point perspective. Pay particular attention to the proportions of the different features and your drawing line weight.
- 2. Consider erecting a tent and the process the user has to go through in order to complete the task successfully. This is often referred to as the user experience or user journey. Draw a storyboard charting the different steps necessary to carry out this task from unpacking the tent to completing the structure. Can you create a new design to improve the user experience?
- 3. Using card or materials found around the house, design and make a non-powered amplifier for your smartphone. Start by doing some research. There are a number of examples on-line. Some are available as products, some are open source kits and others have a distinct 'home made' appearance. Experiment with different designs to create the most effective amplifier.
- 4. During the Covid-19 lockdown many people have resorted to online shopping. Thinking about your own household, how much additional packaging has been generated each week and how have you disposed of it? A sustainable approach to product design and packaging is essential. Research the 'Circular Economy'. How can this be applied?
- 5. Select a household object and consider it as if you have designed it yourself. How would you include it in your portfolio or enter it in a competition (e.g. photographs, technical drawings, 3D model, video, description)? Look at some of your favourite products online and analyse the imagery, typography, story and branding used to advertise them.



Reading list

- Henry, K. (2012) Drawing For Product Designers. Laurence King Publishing
- Normal, D. (2002) The Design of Everyday Things. Basic Books
- Thompson, R (2013) Sustainable Materials, Processes and Production. Thames & Hudson
- Huber, A. (2018) Telling the Design Story. Routledge.
- The Circular Economy
- <u>Limited Edition McDonald's Boombox</u>

Indicative content

- Perspective Sketching: Chapter 8, Henry
- User Centred Design: Chapter 7, Norman
- Sustainable Materials, Processes and Production: Thompson
- Visual Communication: Chapter 1 and 6, Huber; Chapter 1, Norman

