

ENGR 2026 DESIGN SEMANTICS: EXPLORING PRODUCT FORM

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 301289

Coordinator Karen Yevenes ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Karen Yevenes/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Karen%20Yevenes/))

Description Products can engage our senses to evoke an emotional response or mediate an experience. This is a powerful psychological tool for industrial designers to understand in terms of the design interface as it provides a strategic opportunity for innovation. In this subject students will create meaningful and active product relationships, and use product semantics as an agency for proposing design solutions in areas such as health and well-being, ageing populations, and sustainable design.

School Eng, Design & Built Env

Discipline Other Engineering And Related Technologies

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 2 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 2 subject

Equivalent Subjects ENGR 2006 - Design Studio 1 Themes and Variations ENGR 2008 - Design Studio 3 Design Process and Function

Assumed Knowledge

Students will be required to have basic workshop skills and/or model-making skills. A basic understanding of graphics software, for example Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, is assumed.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Apply the principles of product semantics as a strategy for creating innovative product solutions.
2. Develop a design brief to address a design problem.
3. Create 2D concepts and 3D prototype models to communicate a design proposal.
4. Validate the product design through testing and evaluation of the designed solution.
5. Apply professional practice and team collaboration in the context of a design project.

Subject Content

Product Semantics as a contemporary research area
Investigation of key sub-topics and their impact on product form and features: Affordances and signifiers; Design Activism; Kansei Engineering; gender and product design; stereotype; behavioural change; ergonomics and semantics; relationships with objects; people centred design
Psychology and design opportunity
The product interface and ease of use?
Manufactured details
Development of the Design Brief
Concept graphics to communicate a design solution

Exploratory model-making to investigate product language

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Applied Project	1 x A4 Written document (1500 words)	10	N	Individual	N
Applied Project	3 x A3 Annotated Graphic composition 1 x A3 Process Diary (30 pages);	40	N	Individual	N
Portfolio	1 x A3 set of detail drawings; 1 x Full scale model	50	N	Group/ Individual	Y

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Parramatta City - Macquarie St

On-site

Subject Contact Karen Yevenes ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Karen Yevenes/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Karen%20Yevenes/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=ENGR2026_25-AUT_PC_1#subjects)