COURSE SYLLABUS						
Course Title	**Course Code**	**Semester**	**Course Hour/Week**		**Credit**	**ECTS**
Social Factors in Design	ARCH108	2	**Theory** 3	**Practice** 0	3	3
Course Type	Compulsory Courses	Department Elective	Faculty Elective	University Elective	CoHE (YÖK) Compulsory	Other
	x					
Level of Course	Associate Degree (Short Cycle)		Undergraduate (First Cycle)		Graduate / Doctoral (Second / Third Cycle)	
			x			

Language of Instruction	English

Course Instructor(s)	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tarek Abdelsalam	E-mail: tarek.abdelsalam@arucad.edu.tr Office: TI-OFF07
Course Objectives	This foundational course aims to develop students' understanding of the fundamental relationship between human needs and architectural design. Students will gain essential knowledge of human dimensions and ergonomics, learning to recognize how these factors directly influence architectural decisions. Students will develop their observational skills throughout the semester to understand how different user groups interact with built environments and how cultural and social factors shape spatial preferences. The course will build students' capacity to analyse the dynamic relationship between human behaviour and spatial design, ultimately enabling them to create basic design solutions that thoughtfully respond to diverse user needs. Students will begin to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to create spaces that enhance human experience and well-being by emphasising direct observation and analysis of real-world examples.	

	Students will be able to:	**Teaching Methods**	**Evaluation Methods**
Course Learning Outcomes	Understand human needs in architecture	Direct instruction - discussion - case study - Brainstorming	Mid-term exam Final exam. Assignments
	Respond to human needs in the built environment	-Direct instruction - discussion	Mid-term exam Final exam.

		- case study - Brainstorming	Assignments
	Develop observational and analytical skills	-Direct instruction - Discussion - Case study - Brainstorming	Mid-term exam Final exam. Assignments
	Understand how people interact with spaces, learning	-Direct instruction - Discussion - Case study - Brainstorming	Mid-term exam Final exam. Assignments
	Translate human dimensions and behavior patterns into thoughtful design decisions.	-Direct instruction - Discussion - Case study - Brainstorming	Mid-term exam Final exam. Assignments
	Identify diverse user requirements	-Direct instruction - Discussion - Case study - Brainstorming	Mid-term exam Final exam. Assignments
	Analyze basic spatial relationships	-Direct instruction - Discussion - Case study - Brainstorming	Mid-term exam Final exam. Assignments
	Propose design solutions that enhance human experience and well-being.	-Direct instruction - Discussion - Case study - Brainstorming	Mid-term exam Final exam. Assignments
Course Content	The course covers fundamental aspects of human-centred design, starting with basic anthropometrics and ergonomics. Students learn about personal space requirements, proxemics, and environmental comfort factors, including thermal, visual, and acoustic considerations. The curriculum explores circulation patterns, accessibility standards, and how social and cultural factors influence spatial organization. Through case studies and practical exercises, students examine successful examples of universal design and inclusive spaces, building a foundation for future architectural studies.		

COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE			
Week	**Topic**	**Implementation (theory/practice)**	**Required Reading, Preliminary preparation**

1	Introduction to Social Factors in Design	T	
2	The concept of atrium house … the social aspects.	T	See required reading
3	Humanistic architecture.	T	See required reading
4	The courtyard house … socio-cultural dimensions.	T	See required reading
5	Design for social spaces in buildings.	T	See required reading
6	Behaviour Settings: Social dimensions in home design.	T	See required reading
7	Age and Ability Considerations: - Universal Design - Designing for different age groups - Inclusive design principles	T	See required reading
8	Universal design: basics and principles + **Midterm Exam**.	T	See required reading
9	Implications of identity in architecture	T	See required reading
10	The defensive space	T	See required reading
11	The practice of the architecture of happiness. Adaptability And Flexibility	T	See required reading
12	Social & Psychological Dimensions: Social Behaviour & Place Attachment **Assignment 1**	T	See required reading
13	Social & Psychological Dimension: mental & Cognitive maps	T	See required reading
14	Movement and Circulation - How people move through space - Basic circulation patterns	T	See required reading
15	Movement and Circulation - Accessibility fundamentals	T	See required reading

16	Case studies & revision for the Final Exam.	T	See required reading
17	Final Exam Week		

Required Course Material(s) / Reading(s)/ Text Book(s)	Ching, F. D. (2015). Architecture: Form, space, and order. John Wiley & Sons. ARUCAD Library **Call number: REF NA2760 .C46 2015** Soares, M. M. (2017). Ergonomics in design: methods & techniques Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. ARUCAD Library **Call number: REF T 59.7.S63 2017**
Recommended Course Material(s)/ Reading(s) /Other	Alexander, C. (1977). A Pattern Language Panero, Julius. "Human Dimension & Interior Space

ASSESSMENT		
Learning Activities	**NUMBER**	**WEIGHT in %**
Mid-Term	1	30
Quiz	-	-
Assignment	-	-
Portfolio	-	-
Project	1	20
Field Study	-	-
Presentation / Seminar	-	-
Studio Practice	-	-
Other	-	-
Contribution of Final Examination/Final Project/ Dissertation to the Final Grade	1	50
TOTAL		100

CONTRIBUTION OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES						
No	**PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**	Level of Contribution (1-lowest/ 5- highest)				
		1	2	3	4	5

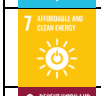
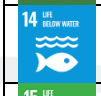
1	Understand architectural history, theory, and cultural heritage, including the relationship between local/vernacular traditions and global architectural discourse.			X		
2	Understand the technical knowledge and the principles of structural systems, building technology, environmental performance, and construction processes as integrated components of architectural design.		X			
3	Comprehend sustainability, ecological sensitivity, and climate-responsive design principles and their application across different scales of the built environment.				X	
4	Recognize the legal, ethical, and professional frameworks governing architectural practice, including relevant codes, standards, universal ethical values, and the principles of project management and cost estimation.		X			
5	Apply creative and critical design thinking to develop holistic architectural solutions that respond to spatial, environmental, cultural, and social challenges at local, national, and global scales.			X		
6	Produce professional drawings, models, technical documentation, and digital/parametric visualizations that effectively communicate architectural proposals at all stages of design.	X				
7	Conduct systematic, evidence-based research and apply critical evaluation methods to inform and validate design decisions throughout the design process.				X	
8	Integrate interdisciplinary knowledge — spanning art, engineering, ecology, and social sciences — to produce innovative and contextually sensitive design outcomes.			X		
9	Demonstrate professional and ethical responsibility, with sensitivity to environmental sustainability, socio-cultural diversity, and the well-being of communities served by architectural practice.			X		
10	Collaborate effectively in interdisciplinary and intercultural teams, demonstrating leadership, communication, and project management competencies in design and professional contexts.	X				
11	Communicate architectural ideas persuasively and clearly in verbal, visual, and written form to professional, academic, client, and public audiences.		X			
12	Engage in continuous self-reflection, lifelong learning, and active contribution to the evolving architectural profession at local, regional, and international levels.			X		

ECTS / STUDENT WORKLOAD				
ACTIVITIES	**NUMBER**	**UNIT**	**HOUR**	**TOTAL (WORKLOAD)**

Course Teaching Hour (X weeks * total course hours)	16	1	3	48
Preliminary Preparation and self- study	1	1	2	2
Mid-Term	1	1	5	5
Quiz	-	-	-	-
Assignment	1	1	10	10
Portfolio	-	-	-	-
Project	-	-	-	-
Field Study	-	-	-	-
Presentation / Seminar	-	-	-	-
Studio Practice	-	-	-	-
Final Examination/ Final Project/ Dissertation	1	1	10	10
Other	-	-	-	-
TOTAL WORKLOAD				**75**
TOTAL WORKLOAD / 25				3
ECTS				**3**

ETHICAL RULES WITH REGARD TO THE COURSE
Plagiarism Disclaimer Detected and undetected plagiarism is a serious offense at any time and can have devastating effects on your degree results and future professional life. Plagiarism is easy to avoid if you ensure that you properly identify and acknowledge your sources and do not copy directly from visual examples, designs, or notes that have themselves been taken word-for-word from your sources.

	SDG 1: No Poverty	
	SDG 2: Zero Hunger	
	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	X
	SDG 4: Quality Education	X
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	X

	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	
	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	
	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	X
	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
	SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	X
	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	X
	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	X
	SDG 13: Climate Action	
	SDG 14: Life Below Water	
	SDG 15: Life on Land	X
	SDG 16:Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	X
	SDG 17:Partnership for the Goals	X

ASSESSMENT DETAILS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:	
Final grades will be determined based on the course learning activities and the assessment details for the final examination or project, as outlined below, in accordance with the University's Education and Examination Regulations. Students are required to attend at least 70% of the classes. The maximum allowable absenteeism is 30%. Midterm Exam: 30% Project Submission: 20% Final Exam: 50%	
PREPARED BY	Assoc. Prof. Tarek Abdelsalam
UPDATED	March 2026
APPROVED	