COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title	Course Code	Semester	Course Hour/Week		Credit	ECTS
Research Methods & Discourses	INAD 109	1	**Theory** 2	**Practice** 2	3	5
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. Soad Abokhamis Mousavi	E-mail: soad.mousavi@arucad.edu.tr Office : TI-OFF18
Course Objectives	This course aims to introduce students to the prevalent research methods applicable to theoretical, elective, and design-based courses. It also provides students with a comprehensive understanding of research methodologies relevant to their field of study. Through a combination of theoretical lectures, practical exercises, and real-world examples, students will develop the skills necessary to design, conduct, analyze, and communicate research effectively. Particular emphasis is placed on critical thinking, problem-solving, and ethical considerations throughout the research process.	
Course Learning Outcomes	**Students will able to:**	**Teaching Methods** / **Evaluation Methods**
	Explain and **interpret** general methodologies of research, demonstrating awareness of various possible methods in design-based research.	Lectures, seminars, discussion of research cases / Midterm Paper, submission, final exam
	Apply and **organize** systematic procedures to conduct research effectively.	Research planning workshops, individual supervision / Midterm Paper, submission, final exam
	Analyze scholarly texts critically and compose academic essays or beginner-level research papers.	Reading assignments, writing exercises, peer reviews / Midterm Paper, submission, final exam
	Cite and **apply** appropriate referencing styles to research texts and other academic or professional sources accurately.	Referencing tutorials, practical citation sessions / Midterm Paper, submission, final exam
	Develop innovative design solutions informed by research	Research-informed design / Midterm Paper, submission, final

	data and evidence through understanding methodologies.	tasks, data analysis practice	exam
	Evaluate and defend principles of intellectual property, maintaining honesty, justice, and fairness in academic and professional contexts.	Ethics discussions, academic integrity case studies	Midterm Paper, submission, final exam
	Communicate and **collaborate** effectively through research activities, citation practices, and engagement with global scholarly sources.	Group discussion, collaborative writing, presentations	Midterm Paper, submission, final exam
Course Content	This course introduces a systematic approach to conducting research, from formulating a research question through the critical reading of scholarly texts to producing individual academic papers. It presents general research methodologies and explores a broad range of disciplines and methods that can be applied to design-based research. The course includes lectures, in-class exercises, research reports, and academic writing assignments. In addition, the course introduces students to the Turnitin platform and provides guidance on using its features effectively for plagiarism self-checking. Through a combination of lectures, hands-on exercises, and practical assignments, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of academic integrity, plagiarism, its implications, and strategies for avoiding it in their own academic work.		

COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE			
Week	**Topic**	**Implementation (theory/practice)**	**Classwork**
1	**General Introduction to the course.** What is research? Definitions of terms, research process, types of research, research outline.	T	
2	**Research types** Descriptive research, comparative research, problem-solving research. Structure of research paper, Research question, Online search.	T/P	**Introducing Turnitin and the plagiarism-checking process.**
3	**Literature review.** Literature search, Sources, Note taking, Paraphrasing. Techniques for paraphrasing. Developing reading and writing.	T/P	
4	**Referencing**. Plagiarism, Authorship, APA Manual style, Paraphrasing (exercise). Developing reading and writing.	T/P	**Introducing the Midterm paper, computer lab research.**
5	**Reading and annotating**. Analyzing a text rhetorically, identifying	T/P	

	claim, claim of fact, claim of value, claim of policy. Developing reading and writing (Introducing the Midterm paper).		
6	Developing reading and writing (Developing the Midterm paper).	P	**Developing the Midterm paper, computer lab research.**
7	Developing reading and writing	T/P	**Developing the Midterm paper, computer lab research.**
8	Academic writing and paragraph development. **Midterm paper submission**	T/P	
9	**Academic writing and paragraph development.** Tips for writing. Developing reading and writing.	T	
10	**Data collection.** Nature of data, primary data, secondary data, qualitative and quantitative data. Developing reading and writing	T/P	**Computer lab research.**
11	**Methodology (types).** Qualitative and quantitative, interview, focus group, participant observation and questionnaires. Developing reading and writing	T/P	**Computer lab research.**
12	**Field work.** Field observation, field note, research sample: Tilting (Robert Mellin). Developing reading and writing (final paper).	T/P	**Introducing the final paper, computer lab research.**
13	**Structure of research paper.** Developing reading and writing (final paper).	T/P	**Developing the final paper, computer lab research.**
14	Developing reading and writing (**Final paper**).	P	**Developing the final paper, computer lab research.**
15	Developing reading and writing (**Final paper**).	P	**Developing the final paper, computer lab research.**
16	**Final Exam**		

Required Course Material(s) / Reading(s) / Text Book(s)	Lucas, R. (2016). *Research methods for architecture*. Laurence King Publishing. **Call No: NA2000 .L83 2016** Milton, A., & Rodgers, P. (2013). *Research methods for product design*. Laurence King Publishing. **Call No: TS171.4 .M78 2013** Leavy, P. (2017). *Research design: Quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, arts-based, and community-based participatory research approaches*. Guilford Press. **Call No: H62 .L396 2017**
Recommended Course Material(s) / Reading(s) / Other	Peoples, K. (2021). *How to write a phenomenological dissertation: A step-by-step guide*. Sage Publications. **Call No: B829.5 .P3634 2021**

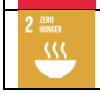
ASSESSMENT		
Learning Activities	**NUMBER**	**WEIGHT (%)**
Mid-Term	1	40
Quiz	-	-
Assignment	-	-
Project	-	-
Field Study	-	-
Presentation / Seminar	-	-
Studio Practice	-	-
Other (class participation)	-	-
Contribution of Final Examination/Final Project/ Dissertation to the Final Grade	1	60
TOTAL		100

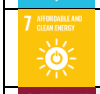
No	**PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**	**Level of Contribution (1 = lowest / 5 = highest)**				
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
KNOWLEDGE *Understanding and knowing — theoretical, historical, and conceptual foundations*						
1	Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of visual and spatial design language, encompassing fundamental principles of form, function, space, material, ergonomics, ecology, and society, as well as technical knowledge, in the production of human-centered interior environments.	x				
2	Critically engage the history of interior architecture, art, and design, drawing on research methodologies to inform culturally sensitive and contextually grounded design practice.					x
3	Understand interior architecture as a holistic and interdisciplinary profession, articulating the relationship between spatial design, architecture, art, and environmental stewardship.	x				
4	Understanding of theoretical, historical, cultural, ecological, and universal accessibility dimensions of interior design to inform responsible, inclusive, and environmentally conscious spatial decision-making.		x			
SKILLS *Doing and making — technical, creative, and methodological abilities*						
5	Develop and communicate design concepts through diverse visualization tools — including hand drawing, and digital modeling — demonstrating competency in contemporary representational technologies for professional design communication.	x				
6	Produce technically proficient sketches, technical drawings, and documentation according to professional standards, applying both analog and digital tools in spatial problem-solving.	x				
7	Apply systematic, research-based critical thinking in design processes and problem-solving, addressing contemporary spatial and ergonomic demands with research-driven design strategies.					x
8	Produce design models, cost estimations, and technical documentation	x				

	for project realization, incorporating sustainable design strategies and adaptive reuse methodologies for heritage and contemporary environments.					
COMPETENCIES *Professional behavior and attitude — ethical, creative, and lifelong practice*						
9	Articulate a personal creative vision and present design proposals verbally, visually, and textually across a range of media, upholding the high standards of creative excellence, considering legal and ethical practices.			x		
10	Demonstrate commitment to continuous self-development, lifelong learning, and professional ethics, contributing to the cultural and intellectual enrichment of local, regional, and global communities.				x	
11	Demonstrate proficiency in innovative design tools and emerging technologies, integrating traditional craftsmanship with contemporary digital methods to expand the boundaries of interior spatial design.	x				
12	Collaborate effectively in interdisciplinary and intercultural teams, demonstrating leadership, communication, and project management competencies in design and professional contexts.				x	

ECTS / STUDENT WORKLOAD				
ACTIVITIES	**NUMBER**	**UNIT**	**HOUR**	**TOTAL (WORKLOAD)**
Course Teaching / Practice Hour (weeks/total course hours)	15	1	4	60
Assignment				
Midterm Project	1		30	30
Field Study / Project				
Final Project	1		40	40
TOTAL WORKLOAD				130
TOTAL WORKLOAD / 25				5.2
ECTS				**5**

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	
	SDG 4: Quality Education	√
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	
	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	
	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	
	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	
	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	√
	SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	
	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	
	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	
	SDG 13: Climate Action	
	SDG 14: Life Below Water	
	SDG 15: Life on Land	
	SDG 16:Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	√
	SDG 17:Partnership for the Goals	√

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%.

The assessment for this course comprises a written midterm research report that evaluates students' understanding and application of research methods covered up to that point in the semester. A second research report, submitted between the midterm and final examination periods, is assessed based on the students' progression and development.

Research topics are selected from a list provided by the lecturer. The final research paper develops from the second research report, incorporating the lecturer's critique and feedback on the students' understanding and application of research methods.

Midterm Research Report (40%) and Final Research Paper (60%) will be combined to determine the overall assessment mark for the course.	
PREPARED BY	Asst. Prof. Dr. Ehsan Daneshyar-
UPDATED	Asst. Prof. Dr. Olgica Grcheva (20.09.2024)- Assoc.Prof.Dr Soad Abokhamis Mousavi(September 2025)
APPROVED	