



Course Code	Course Name	Year/Semester	Theory	Practice	Credits	ECTS
IAED 4155	COURTYARD DESIGN	2025-2026 Spring	3	0	3	4

Level of Course: Undergraduate

Course Type: Area Elective

Language of Instruction: English

Course time:

Course classroom: Wednesday (09.30-12.30)
BB-36

Mode of Delivery: Class Teaching, Presentations, Assignments

Prerequisites and None

Co-requisites:

Course Coordinator: Asst. Prof. Dr. Buket ŞENOĞLU

Name of Lecturer(s): Asst. Prof. Dr. Buket ŞENOĞLU

**Course Teaching
Assistant:**

Course Objectives: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the basic theory of courtyard design
To realize socio-cultural and functional aspects of courtyards
To present design languages and landscape elements of courtyards
To enrich the basic knowledge of hardscape, softscape and furnishings for courtyard design

Course Description: This course incorporates landscape architecture, architecture, and interior architecture. It discusses the importance of open spaces in buildings in general and courtyards in particular. It illustrates the typology and designing criteria for courtyards. The course also sheds light on the hardscape, softscape (plant identification and selection of plant materials), services, and furnishings of courtyards in detail, focusing on the principles of interior design. A variety of design examples and case studies around the world will be discussed according to the design principles and the representative meanings of courtyards.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, students will

1. Be knowledgeable of the history, typology, characteristics, and function of courtyards.
2. Acquire courtyard design skills
3. Develop creative approaches for courtyards reflecting social conditions, common aesthetic perspective and cultural identity
4. Develop basic cognition of plant identification and planting design

Language:

The lecture, discussions, presentations, and assignments will be in English. Developing your verbal and written language skills will be very important in acquiring disciplinary terminology as well as daily communication at class.

**Recommended Text
Books:**

1. Courtyard Housing and Cultural Sustainability by Donia Zhang
2. Courtyard Houses by Günter Pfeifer and Per Brauneck
3. Courtyards: Intimate Outdoor Spaces by Douglas Keister
4. Courtyard Gardens by Toby Musgrave
5. Erdoğan, E (1996). Anadolu avlularının özellik ve düzenleme ilkeleri üzerinde karşılaştırmalı bir araştırma. Doktora Tezi, Ankara Üniversitesi

Planned Learning Activities and Teaching Method: **Learning/Teaching Method:** *This is a lecture-based course in which students will learn courtyard design by getting involved in different actual and abstract case studies. The course will be supported by lectures and student presentations as well as individual reports.*

Assignments: *Assignments are in the form of poster presentations for different topics, as well as analysis and design drawings of a given space in terms of courtyard design.*

Class Participation: *Regular attendance of all enrolled classes is expected. Do not be late for the class. Attendance will be taken through your signature within the first quarter of the class; if you come later you will be considered half-attended. At the end of the Semester, your attendance will be reported on the UBS. Attendance is compulsory and in case of absenteeism of more than 30%, the system will automatically grade you "FF". If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to 'make up' all work, including items discussed in class. The class contribution will be measured in terms of quality, not quantity. If you need to leave early, you should notify your professor at the commencement of the session.*

Academic integrity & plagiarism: *Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity based on the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Practicing academic integrity means never plagiarizing or cheating, never misrepresenting yourself, never falsifying information, never deceiving or compromising the work of others. Basically, this means, either intentionally or unintentionally, using the words or ideas of someone else without giving credit, it's strictly forbidden.*

Course Textbooks: *There is no specific textbook for this course. Students are required to actively participate in the lectures and study the recommended reading textbooks and also do research on the variety of architectural presentation techniques. Selected class handouts will be provided by the instructor when needed.*

Key Works: *Lectures and assignments in this course mainly focus on acquiring the ability of recognizing basic concepts, features (spatial and cultural), functions, and materials used in different types of courtyard spaces.*

Specific Rules:

1. *Be punctual. Punctuality is a sign of respect toward yourself and others.*
2. *Show respect for all the people and property around you.*
3. *Be responsible for your actions and meet all expectations.*
4. *Follow directions the first time they are given.*
5. *Students should raise their hand to signal a question or to answer a question.*
6. *Students should use the Internet at school for academic purposes only.*
7. *It is forbidden to record classes with any type of device.*

Communication : *If you have any question about the syllabus, your responsibilities in the course and assessment procedures please ask your instructor without any delay. Students are encouraged to visit the professor during their Office Hours. If you cannot make it to announced office hours, please make individual arrangements via e-mail. However, do not expect the professor and the research assistant to respond at length via e-mail to questions of content, the definition of terms, grading questions, etc. If you have a question that requires a substantive response, please set up an appointment to speak with your instructor.*

**Course Contents*:
(Weekly Lecture Plan)**

Date	Week	Chapter Topic	Take-home exercise
11.02.26	1	Course introduction	
18.02.26	2	Open spaces in buildings and Landscape Architecture – Courtyard design as art and science	

25.02.26	3	Courtyard Configuration and Variety of Functions Cultural Style Sources in Courtyard Design – I (Classical Courtyards, Islamic Courtyards)	Ass1. Creating an inspirational board of a courtyard design
04.03.26	4	Cultural Style Sources in Courtyard Design – II (Medieval Courtyards, Renaissance Courtyards, Japanese Courtyards)	Ass2. Creating an inspirational board of a courtyard design
11.03.26	5	Cultural Style Sources in Courtyard Design – III (Southern Colonial Courtyards, Arts and Crafts Courtyards)	Ass3. Creating an inspirational board of a courtyard design
18.03.26	6	Cultural Style Sources in Courtyard Design – IV (Latin Courtyards, Modern Courtyards)	Ass4. Creating an inspirational board of a courtyard design
25.03.26	7	Overview of the previous classes & Midterm Submission Requirements	Preparation for midterm submissions
	8	MIDTERM SUBMISSION	
8.04.26	9		
15.04.26	10	Designing by Theme-I (Arid, Mediterranean, Tropical Courtyards)	Ass5. Sketching the design themes
22.04.26	11	Designing by Theme-II (Easy-care, Romantic, Edible, Spa-treatment courtyards)	Ass6. Sketching the design themes
29.04.26	12	Student presentations	
6.05.26	13	Framework in Courtyards	
13.05.26	14	Decorative Features in Courtyards	
20.05.26	15	Overview of the course & Final Submission Requirements	Preparation for final submission
2025 2026		FINAL SUBMISSION	

* PLEASE NOTE: Details of the syllabus and course schedule are subject to minor changes that will be announced in class.

Grading: Midterm and final exam responses will be evaluated for accuracy, thoughtfulness, and clarity. Assignments will be evaluated for content, quality of ideas, and clarity of presentation (including all necessary materials).

Assessment Methods and Criteria:

METHODS	EFFECTS ON GRADING
Assignments/Presentations	30%
Midterm submission	30%
Final submission	40%

ECTS Workload Table:	ACTIVITIES	NUMBER	HOUR	WORKLOAD
	Course Teaching Hours	14	3	42
	Assignments	6	3	18
	Presentations	7	1	7
	Midterm preparation	1	12	12
	Midterm submission	1	1	1
	Final project preparation	1	24	24
	Final project submission	1	1	1
	Total workload			105
	Total workload/25			105/25
	ECTS			4

GRADING AND EVALUATION

The students' progress will be evaluated throughout the semester. Students' grades point lower than 50 will be considered as failed.

Grade Scale:

GRADE	MARKS	VALUE	GRADE	MARKS	VALUE
A+	-		C+	60-64	2.40
A	95-100	4.00	C	55-59	2.20
A-	85-94	3.7	C-	50-54	1,70
B+	80-84	3.3	D+	45-49	1.30
B	75-79	3.00	D	40-44	1.00
B-	65-74	2.7	F	0-39	0.00