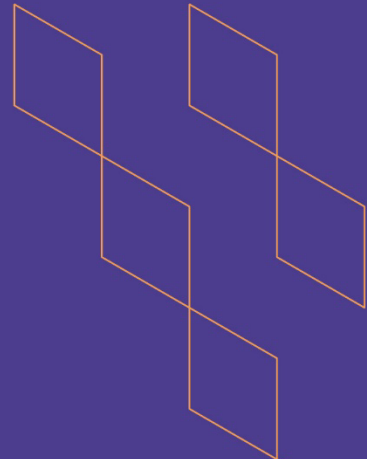T-104
2022

Course Specification

Course Title: Arabic Calligraphy and Ornaments (الزخارف والخط العربي)

Course Code: DES 681

Program: Interior Design Program

Department: Architecture Department

College: College of Engineering and Information Technology

Institution: Onaizah Private Colleges

Version: Third Version

Last Revision Date: 2025-05-20

Previous Course Specification

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LJ_fnhuj3R0zCnLxwR5ppDptfVakjah9/view

Table of Contents:

A. General information about the course:

Course Identification

1. Credit hours:	2 Credit Hours

2. Course type

a.	University ☐	College ☐	Department ☒	Track ☐	Others ☐
b.	Required ☐	Elective ☒			

3. Level/year at which this course is offered:	Sixth Level / Third Year

4. Course general Description

This course explores the historical, cultural, and aesthetic foundations of Arabic calligraphy and Islamic ornamentation, with a specific focus on their application in interior design. Students examine the evolution, stylistic features, and symbolic meanings of key calligraphic scripts such as Kufic, Naskh, Thuluth, Diwani, and Maghrebi, alongside traditional decorative elements including geometric patterns, floral motifs, and arabesques. Emphasis is placed on understanding design principles such as symmetry, proportion, rhythm, repetition, and visual harmony. Through a combination of theoretical analysis, freehand sketching, and digital design techniques, students learn to adapt calligraphic and ornamental elements into contemporary interior spaces—incorporating them into walls, ceilings, furniture, and architectural details. Course projects integrate traditional craftsmanship and modern technologies across a variety of materials, enabling students to produce culturally grounded, aesthetically refined, and contextually appropriate design solutions. The course fosters an appreciation of Arabic visual heritage and its potential to enrich spatial identity and contemporary interior design expression.

5. Pre-requirements for this course (if any):

None

6. Co- requirements for this course (if any):

None

7. Course Main Objective(s)

The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a deep understanding of the historical, cultural, and aesthetic significance of Arabic calligraphy and Islamic ornamentation within the field of interior design. Students will explore the origins and evolution of key calligraphic styles such as Kufic, Naskh, Diwani, and Thuluth, and analyze the geometric and floral patterns characteristic of Islamic art. The course aims to develop students' abilities to apply principles of symmetry, proportion, and repetition in ornamental design, using both freehand sketching and digital tools. Emphasis is placed on the thoughtful integration of calligraphic and ornamental elements into contemporary interior applications—including wall treatments, ceiling designs, furniture, and decorative features. By the end of the course, students will be able to incorporate culturally meaningful and aesthetically refined elements into interior spaces, fostering spatial identity and regional artistic expression in their design work.

1. Teaching mode

No.	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom	30	100%

No.	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
2	E-learning		
3	Hybrid • Traditional classroom • E-learning		
4	Distance learning		

2. Contact Hours (based on the academic semester)

No.	Activity	Contact Hours
1	Lectures	30
2	Laboratory/Studio	
3	Field	
4	Tutorial	
5	Others (specify)	
Total		**30**

B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	**Knowledge and understanding**			
DES 681.CLO.K.1	Discuss the historical evolution and stylistic development of Arabic calligraphy as a basis for informed application in interior design projects	K.3(التصميم برنامج Interior الداخلى Design)	Primary: Lecture Additional: Research (Individual or Group)	Formative: Research Summary (Rubric) Summative: Student Portfolio
2.0	**Skills**			
DES 681.CLO.S.1	Analyze various Arabic calligraphy styles, including Kufic and decorative scripts, to evaluate their visual characteristics and potential applications in interior design	S.3(التصميم برنامج Interior الداخلى Design)	Primary: Interactive Lecture \ Demonstration Additional: Group Work (competitive or cooperative / Online or F2F)	Formative: Project Assessment (Rubric) Summative: Student Portfolio
DES 681.CLO.S.2	Experiment with creative Arabic calligraphy styles, rendering techniques, and decorative elements to design structured	S.5(التصميم برنامج Interior الداخلى Design)	Primary: Presentations (Individual or Group) Additional: Discussion (or similar active	Formative: Practical Assessment (Rubric) Summative: Project Assessment (Rubric)

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	and expressive calligraphic logos for interior design applications		learning strategies)	
3.0	Values, Autonomy, and Responsibility			
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C. Course Content

No.	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1	<u>Introduction to Arabic Calligraphy & Ornaments:</u> - History and evolution of Arabic calligraphy. - The role of Arabic calligraphy in Islamic art and architecture. - Introduction to Arabic ornamental patterns and motifs. <u>Activity:</u> analyze historical examples.	2
2	<u>Overview of major calligraphy styles:</u> - Kufic (geometric and structured). - Naskh (curved and elegant). - Thuluth (decorative and flowing). <u>Activity:</u> Application of calligraphy in wall murals, furniture, and decor elements - Basic Calligraphy Practice" (Students create letters & words.	4
3	- Diwani & Jali Diwani (ornate and dynamic) - Ruq'ah & Maghrebi (modern and traditional uses). <u>Activity:</u> Application of calligraphy in wall murals, furniture, and decor elements - Basic Calligraphy Practice" (Students create letters & words.	4
4	<u>Islamic Ornaments and Arabesque Patterns:</u> - Understanding geometric patterns, floral motifs, and arabesques. - Symbolism in Islamic ornaments and their spiritual meanings. - The role of symmetry and repetition in design. <u>Activity:</u> "Analyze & Recreate" (Students dissect and recreate patterns).	4
5	<u>Techniques & Materials for Arabic Calligraphy in Interiors:</u> - Traditional methods: hand-painting, engraving, carving. - Modern methods: laser cutting, digital printing, CNC routing. - Calligraphy in different materials: wood, metal, glass, ceramics, textiles.	4
6	<u>Digital Calligraphy & Contemporary Applications:</u> - Introduction to digital tools: Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Procreate, CAD. - Creating custom calligraphic artwork for interiors. - Merging traditional and modern styles in contemporary interior spaces. <u>Activity:</u> "Create a Digital Calligraphic Composition".	4

7	Interior Design and Architectural Elements with Arabic Calligraphy: - Applications in domes, arches, columns, and mihrabs. - Calligraphy in ceilings, walls, partitions, doors, and furniture. - Integration with lighting and color schemes. Activity: Case studies of modern interior spaces with Arabic calligraphy.	4
8	Interior Calligraphy & Ornamentation for Cultural Identity: - How calligraphy preserves cultural heritage. - Contemporary designers using calligraphy in interiors. - Debate: "Traditional vs. Modern Calligraphy in Design".	4
Total		**30**

D. Students Assessment Activities

No.	Assessment Activities*	Assessment Timing (in Week No.)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1	Practical Assessment (Rubric)	5th	10%
2	Research Summary (Rubric)	3rd	10%
3	Project Assessment (Rubric)	12th	10%
4	Midterm	8th – 10th	25%
5	Student Portfolio	15th	45%
			100%

*Assessment Activities (i.e., Written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.)

E. Learning Resources and Facilities

1. References and Learning Resources

Essential References	- Omar Nizam Uddin, Learn to Write Arabic Calligraphy. 2013. - The Rise of Islamic Calligraphy – Alain George. - The Splendor of Islamic Calligraphy Example: Charles H. Roth, Jr., Lizy Kurian John, and Byeong Kil Lee, Digital Systems Design Using Verilog, 1st Edition, Cengage Learning, 2016.
Supportive References	None.
Electronic Materials	None.
Other Learning Materials	None.

2. Required Facilities and Equipment

Items	Resources
Facilities (Classrooms, Laboratories, Exhibition Rooms, Simulation Rooms, etc.)	Lecture Hall, Studio Hall, Computer Lab.
Technology Equipment (Projector, Smart Board, Software)	Computers, Printers, Data Show, Smart Board, Applications Software.
Other Equipment (Depending on the nature of the specialty)	None.

F. Assessment of Course Quality

Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
Effectiveness of teaching	Peer Reviewer	Direct (peer classroom observation according to the approved Rubric)
Effectiveness of students' assessment	Faculty/Instructor	Direct (analysis of CLOs assessment results and grade distributions)
Quality of learning resources	Students	Indirect (course evaluation survey)
The extent to which CLOs have been achieved	Faculty/Instructor	Direct (CLOs assessment and analysis of results according to CLOs targets)
	Students	Indirect (Students through course evaluation survey)
Commitment to learning and teaching strategies and assessment methods included in the program and course specifications	Peer Reviewer	Direct (Peer- classroom observation according to the approved Rubric in OC-QMS)
	Department Chair through Students Focus Groups	Indirect (Chair – survey questions to a focus group of students according to OC QMS)
Action Plan Continuity (Closing the Loop)	QAC (Quality Assurance Committee)	Direct (periodic review of course reports and submitting comments to course instructor/coordinator)
Instructor's Support to Students	Students	Indirect (course evaluation survey)

Assessor (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewer, Others (specify)
Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)

G. Specification Approval Data

COUNCIL /COMMITTEE	Department of Architecture Council
REFERENCE NO.	11
DATE	2023-05-09

Learning outcomes of this course, as well as CLOs/Teaching Strategies/Assessment Methods matrix have been evaluated and reviewed by multiple OC parties according to OC-QMS. You can access results of these final reviews by scanning the QR code on the right, which contains a link to the reviews on OC-E-QMS.

Click Here