



Course Description

Master of Science Degree Program in Iranian Architecture Studies

The Iranian Architecture Studies master's degree program at the Art University of Isfahan comprises five types of courses:

1. Compensatory Courses
2. Major and Specialized Courses
3. Elective Courses
4. Final Thesis

Compensatory Courses

NO	Course title and code	week	Hours per week	Hours			Description
				Theoretical	Practical	Total	
1	English Language for Specific Purposes 1417001	16	3	48	-	48	This course aims to enhance students' proficiency in using specialized English in architectural history, focusing on reading, translating, and discussing relevant texts. The curriculum includes theoretical topics with a student-driven approach, utilizing audio-visual materials and discussions, as well as practical exercises involving research, reading, and presentations in English. The syllabus covers subjects such as search strategies, specialized vocabulary in architecture and related fields, development of study skills, writing principles in English, technical translation, and editing in Persian language.
2	Methodology Research in History of Architecture 1417002	16	4	32	32	64	This course focuses on advanced research methods, including the use of diverse sources, digital tools, and various research approaches. Students conduct a semester-long research project, presenting their findings in a theoretical-seminar format, with potential for field studies if required.
3	Writing Workshop 1417003	16	2	32	-	32	This course aims to improve students' skills in expressing ideas through prose, covering distinctions between language and literature, editing techniques, common writing errors, and practical writing exercises in workshops.
4	Iranian Cultural & Social History 1417004	16	3	48	-	48	This course focuses on promoting cultural understanding in Iran's historical, social, and geographical context, comparing it with European history. It explores Iran's cultural and social history pre and post-Islam, covering sciences, education, literature, art, and notable figures, with an emphasis on expert opinions. The syllabus



							includes research methods, architectural influence on social-cultural history, and a chronological overview from pre-Islam to the Pahlavi era, including a museum object analysis.
5	Introduction to Iranian Arts 1417005	16	2	32	-	32	This course aims to acquaint students with various Iranian arts, emphasizing the interconnectedness of Iranian architecture and arts as cultural expressions. The syllabus covers traditional design principles, calligraphy, painting, artificial arts, architecture-related arts, and Iranian music, promoting a comprehensive understanding of cultural manifestations.

Major and Specialized Courses

NO	Course title and code	week	Hours per week	Hours			Description
				Theoretical	Practical	Total	
6	Methodology of Architectural Historiography 1417006	16	2	32	-	32	This course introduces students to methods and approaches in architectural historiography, exploring intellectual foundations and discussions, especially in the context of Iranian architecture. It covers works by renowned architectural historians and examines opinions on history and aesthetics from writers like Hegel and Foucault, analyzing existing literature in world and Iranian architectural history for different approaches and their strengths and weaknesses.
7	Criticism of Architectural & Historical Monuments 1417007	16	4	32	32	64	This course aims to familiarize students with architectural criticism by teaching methods and manners of critiquing and analyzing architectural history works. It covers theoretical foundations of criticism, including definitions, necessity, and its role in architecture knowledge. The syllabus includes criticism techniques such as description, analysis, interpretation, and thematic criticism, as well as methods in historiography. Practical sessions involve discussing and critiquing architectural works, and short-term critique sessions for students to present critique reports.
8	Research in History of Iranian Architecture I (Prehistory) 1417008	16	4	32	32	64	This course aims to acquaint students with prehistoric Iranian architecture by exploring its temporal and spatial context, studying settlement methods, and examining characteristics of each period. Topics include the definition of historical boundaries, geographical coordinates, building components, and factors influencing architectural formation. The syllabus covers the scope of first settlements in Iran, cultural areas, and introduces works in historical order, focusing on the concept of architecture and the first villages.
9	Research in History of Iranian Architecture II (Historical Period) 1417009	16	4	32	32	64	This course introduces students to the historical architecture of Iran from Elam to Sassanid, exploring temporal and spatial characteristics, cultural areas, and influential factors. Topics include settlement methods, architectural styles, and the relationship between Iranian architecture and neighboring regions, particularly Greek-Roman and Islamic architecture.



No	Att	16	5	48	32	80	Description
10	Research in History of Iranian Architecture III (Islamic Period) 1417012						This course introduces students to the evolution of Islamic architecture in Iran, covering its characteristics, space-making, and related arts across different periods. It explores historical and geographical influences, sources, and historiography, addressing cultural, societal, and architectural features of each era. The syllabus includes discussions on periodization, factors influencing architectural evolution, and examination of architectural characteristics of different periods, emphasizing both differences and similarities.
11	Architectural Comparative History of Islam 1417011	16	4	32	32	64	This course explores the impact of Islam on architecture and cultural products in the Islamic world, analyzing the relationships between national, native, and global architectures while considering geographical and historical influences. The syllabus covers different regions, their architectural evolution, prominent works, and factors shaping architectures in the diverse cultural context of the Islamic world.
12	History of City in Iran 1417013	16	2	32	-	32	This course introduces students to the evolution of the Iranian city from its origin to the present, covering physical-spatial characteristics, factors influencing urban spaces, changes in city structure, and the relationship between architecture and urban elements. Topics include the concept of the Iranian city, historical capitals, factors affecting city formation, types of city shape, and the characteristics of traditional urban fabric, emphasizing cultural, social, and economic influences.
13	Introduction to Fundamentals of Archeology 1417014	16	2	32	-	32	This course introduces students to archaeology, covering its foundations, goals, theories, and methods, emphasizing its role in architectural studies. Topics include the history of archaeology, classification of cultural materials, methodology for studying architectural works, and the interdisciplinary applications of archaeology, particularly in architecture, civil engineering, and urban planning.

Elective Courses

NO	Course title and code	week	Hours per week	Hours			Description
				Theoretical	Practical	Total	
14	Study of Architectural Theories 1417017	16	2	32	-	32	This course introduces students to architectural theory, exploring its connections with social studies, philosophy, and literature. It covers key texts shaping Western architectural thought, discusses the relationship between theory and practice, and addresses critical analysis of both texts and buildings. Topics include Western classicism, Enlightenment rationalism, sociological ideas, the machine age, reactions to modernism, and theoretical concepts in traditional Iranian architecture.
15	Persian Gardens and its History	16	2	32	-	32	This course familiarizes students with the characteristics and evolution of Iranian gardens, covering historical and



							geographical scopes, architectural features, and the relationship between gardens and cities. The syllabus includes examples of historical gardens, types of garden designs, buildings within gardens, water supply systems, and the significance of water, plants, and flowers. Discussions also address interpretations and concepts related to garden space creation and design.
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Final Thesis

NO	Course title and code	week	Hours per week	Hours			Description
				Theoretical	Practical	Total	
16	Thesis 1417012	16	18	288	-	288	The goal of this program is to assess students' ability to summarize and draw conclusions from their experiences in a specialized research work on Iranian architectural history. The final thesis involves defining the problem, collecting sources, analyzing, and presenting a theory, followed by discussing the theory's validity, resulting in a comprehensive and high-quality research work in the field.