

COURSE SYLLABUS

Composition and Color Theory

Course status: Compulsory.

Instructor (Department of Art and Fashion Design): I.M. Chubotina, PhD, Associate Professor.

Higher education level: First (Bachelor's).

Specialty: B2 Design.

Specialization: B2.04 Fashion Design.

Educational program: Fashion Design.

The necessary prerequisites include basic knowledge of visual arts, cultural studies, drawing, general history, and creative techniques and tools, acquired through a complete general secondary education.

1. Course Description

Semesters: 1, 2.

Workload: total hours – 270; ECTS credits – 9.

The aim of the course is to acquire competencies that will enable higher education students to address issues regarding the compositional organization of design objects.

Course learning outcomes:

know: the principles of developing design thinking and its components—visual perception, associative thinking, artistic and spatial imagination, a sense of material, and command of the language of artistic expression;

be able to: the laws, rules, and techniques for representing three-dimensional forms in both real and virtual spaces; techniques for the compositional construction of design products (center, rhythm, dynamics, scale, proportion, accent); and the execution of drawings and sketches using various techniques and artistic media, supported by knowledge of specific technical characteristics and practical skills;

demonstrate: skills in three-dimensional modeling for design projects; the creation of original artistic design works using diverse techniques; the application of knowledge regarding composition, color theory, and color application to create artistic compositions; and a confident command of form-generation techniques in design.

Course content:

Content Module 1. Principles and Means of Composition

Topic 1. Visual perception of form. Characteristics of the visual perception of form. How visible objects affect human sensation. Associations and emotional imagery. The emotional nature of lines and forms. Silhouette, size, and mass of a form. Articulation of form. Creating associative compositions based on the dot, line, and shape (patch).

Topic 2. Principles and means of compositional harmonization. Compositional balance. Ratios and proportions. Principles of constructing static compositions. Principles of constructing dynamic compositions. Nuance, contrast, and identity. The compositional center. Creating planar compositions using simplified geometric motifs based on a specific theme (motto). Aligning the application of compositional principles with design objectives.

Topic 3. Development of achromatic associative compositions. Principles of constructing achromatic associative compositions. Symmetry and its varieties. Rhythm and meter. Main types of composition. Creating associative achromatic compositions using simplified geometric motifs based on a specific theme (motto).

Topic 4. Basic characteristics of color. Principles of constructing color harmonies.

General information on color. Achromatic and chromatic colors. Primary colors. The color spectrum. Hue, saturation, and lightness. Constructing chromatic color combinations. Color harmonies. Harmony of related colors. Mutual enhancement of opposing qualities through contrast. Related-contrasting color harmony.

Topic 5. Specifics of color usage in composition. Application of the color spectrum in design. Mutual enhancement of opposing qualities through contrast. Symbolic meaning of colors. Use of traditional color combinations. The impact of color on enhancing the morphological properties of elements in a planar composition.

Topic 6. The impact of color on people. Use of color in design.

Physiological aspects of color impact. Color psychology. Specifics of utilizing color effects in design objects. Emotional perception of color. Color associations. Impact of color on a person's psychological state. Color associations and patterns of color preference. Warm and cool colors. The place and role of color in the history of cultures. Ancient and modern cultures. Pigments and dyes. Painting. Graphic art. Other art forms. Principles of organizing color compositions in design objects. Functions of color in the design process.

Content Module 2. Compositional techniques for conveying a creative concept in design activities

Topic 7. Using a primary source to discover meaningful associative pathways for creating expressive imagery. The figurative-associative component of form-making. Study and analysis of the selected primary source (material gathering). Identifying key properties of the primary source. Principles of constructing a thematic composition based on the primary source.

Topic 8. Developing a chromatic associative composition based on a primary source. Examples of using plant and animal forms as primary sources in composition. Principles of constructing an associative color composition based on the primary source. Executing a design project using the primary source. The influence of graphic techniques on shaping the characteristics of the compositional solution.

Topic 9. Developing an ornamental composition. Using ornamental motifs based on the stylization of bio-forms. Principles of transforming bio-forms into symbolic forms and ornamental motifs. Step-by-step stylization of an object into a symbolic form. Stylistic features of ornamental composition. Interrelationship of all elements within an ornamental composition. Specifics of composition construction based on rhythmic repetition. Patterns of motif repetition (rhythm). Repeat unit (rapport). Linear ornament. Grid (or repeat-pattern) ornament. Closed ornament. Combinatorial and transformation techniques.

Topic 10. Visual means of rendering the texture of textile materials. Imitating the surface of textile materials. Visual means of rendering the texture of textile materials. Techniques for creating graphic textures. Specifics of the monotype technique. Using graphic textures in composition. The impact of graphic techniques on enhancing the color and textural properties of elements in a planar composition.

Topic 11. Compositional techniques for conveying a creative concept in design. Exploring graphic presentation styles. Developing preliminary sketches. Principles of constructing a mono-composition. Creating a self-contained compositional structure. Expressive means and solutions for mono-composition. Arranging an ornamental structure within a given plane. Partitioning the plane. Rhythmic organization of elements on the plane. Establishing a compositional center.

Topic 12. Specifics of using compositional elements in advertising imagery. Frame composition. Use of photographic imagery across various advertising media. Psychology of perception regarding advertising photography. Principles of constructing advertising photographic compositions. Image and text. Selecting typefaces for advertising copy. Typography and color. Requirements for advertising photographs, text, and typefaces.

Forms of final assessment: exams (semesters 1, 2, 3)

Tools for assessing learning progress: individual assignments, questions for ongoing and final assessment, and sets of test tasks for modular assessment.

Language of instruction: English

2. Assessment

Distribution of points awarded to higher education students

Semester 1 (pass/fail)

Continuous assessment and independent work						Workshop (test)	Sum
T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6		
15	15	15	10	20	15	10	100

Semester 2 (exam)

Continuous assessment and independent work			Workshop	Exam	Sum
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T7	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12	(test)		
20	10	15	10	15	10	10	10	100

Distribution of points for the course

Semester 1 (pass/fail)

Semester 1 (Pass/Fail)							
Types of work assessed in points	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	Total
Take-home graphics problems	5	5	5	5	5	5	30
Graphic works	10	10	10	5	15	10	60
Modular Assessment (MA)	10						10
Total for the course							100

Semester 2 (exam)

Semester 2 (Exam)							
Types of work assessed in points	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12	Total
Take-home graphics problems	5	5	5	5	5	5	30
Graphic works	15	5	10	5	10	5	50
Modular Assessment (MA)	10						10
Exam	10						10
Total for the course							100

Evaluation criteria for types of work

The criteria listed below are used to assess the knowledge and skills acquired by higher education students while studying **each topic of the course**. Practical assignment results are graded on a 35-point scale for each topic:

11–15 points are awarded to students who submit practical work that is fully completed and demonstrates a high level of analytical and graphic quality. The student possesses deep, solid, and comprehensive knowledge of the topic and applies it fluently and with sound reasoning. The submitted materials reflect a logical, well-reasoned approach to the task, incorporating innovative solutions. In the conclusions for each practical assignment, the student describes the process of creating their own clothing collection, justifies the choice of creative inspiration, and identifies the specific characteristics of that source used to develop the collection's design concept.

6–10 points are awarded for practical assignments that are completed fully, logically, and with sound reasoning, albeit with some minor deviations from the course material. With minimal guidance from the instructor, the student is able to compare, synthesize, and organize information. The student's knowledge is sufficiently comprehensive, and they apply the material effectively in standard design scenarios. However, the justification for the design solution within the assignment lacks sufficient supporting argumentation.

1–5 points are awarded for practical work that is incomplete or unfinished, or for work completed with significant guidance from the instructor. The project proposal developed by the candidate lacks sufficient theoretical grounding. There are errors in the execution of the practical task, and conclusions are missing. The response to the task is weakly substantiated and/or incorrect in certain aspects.

Assessment criteria for the pass/fail test

9–10 points – awarded for the work of a student who has fully mastered the course material; presents it fluently, independently, and with sound reasoning; provides a deep and comprehensive explanation of theoretical questions and practical tasks using both required and supplementary literature; employs

scientific terminology proficiently; solves problems using standard or original methods; supports their views with arguments; and conducts analysis and draws conclusions.

7–8 points – awarded for the work of a student who has mastered the course material to a sufficient degree; presents it with sound reasoning; covers the main content of theoretical questions and practical tasks using required literature; solves problems using standard methods; and employs scientific terminology. However, the coverage of certain topics lacks sufficient depth and argumentation, and some minor inaccuracies or insignificant errors occur.

5–6 points – awarded for the work of a student who reproduces a significant portion of the course material and outlines its main content, demonstrating basic knowledge of specific concepts and the ability to write down key formulas, equations, and laws. The student is unable to perform deep, comprehensive analysis or provide sound reasoning and argumentation, does not utilize the necessary literature, and makes significant inaccuracies and errors. 3–4 points: awarded for the work of a student who lacks sufficient command of the course material but presents specific topics fragmentarily and superficially (without argumentation or justification), failing to fully address the content of theoretical questions and practical tasks. 1–2 points: awarded for the work of a student who is unable to explain the content of most topics in the course, possesses only a recognition-level understanding of the material, makes significant errors, and answers only questions requiring a one-word response.

0 points: awarded for the work of a student who lacks knowledge of the course material, is unable to present it, and does not understand the content of theoretical questions and practical tasks.

Exam assessment criteria

To assess the knowledge and competencies acquired by students during the course, an examination of their individual creative projects is conducted at the end of each semester. These projects are reviewed by an expert committee composed of the course instructors. All individual creative projects submitted for the exam must be accompanied by copies, sketches, and rough drafts of the original design source material. Exam results are graded on a 10-point scale:

9–10 points: Awarded to a student who has fully mastered the course material; presents it fluently, independently, and with sound reasoning; provides a deep and comprehensive explanation of theoretical questions and practical tasks using both required and supplementary literature; demonstrates a confident command of academic terminology; solves problems using standard or original methods; supports their views with arguments; and performs analysis and draws conclusions.

7–8 points: Awarded to a student who has a sufficiently solid grasp of the course material; presents it with sound reasoning; generally covers the content of theoretical questions and practical tasks using required literature; solves problems using standard methods; and employs academic terminology. However, the explanation of certain topics lacks sufficient depth or argumentation, and some minor inaccuracies or insignificant errors may be present. 5–6 points – awarded for the work of a student who reproduces a significant portion of the course material, outlines its main content, demonstrates basic knowledge of specific concepts, and writes down key formulas, equations, and laws. The student is incapable of deep, comprehensive analysis, substantiation, or argumentation; fails to consult relevant literature; and makes significant inaccuracies and errors.

3–4 points – awarded for the work of a student who lacks sufficient command of the course material but presents specific topics fragmentarily and superficially (without argumentation or substantiation), failing to fully explain the content of theoretical questions and practical tasks. 1–2 points – awarded for the work of a student who is unable to present the content of most topics and course issues, possesses knowledge only at the level of recognizing phenomena, makes significant errors, and answers only questions requiring a one-word response.

0 points – awarded for the work of a student who lacks knowledge of the course material, is unable to present it, and does not understand the content of theoretical questions and practical tasks.

Correspondence between grading scales for the mastery of educational material

National scale grade for the exam	Score	ECTS grade	Explanation
Perfectly	90-100	A	Perfectly (excellent performance with only a small number of errors)
Good	82-89	B	Very good (above-average level with a few errors)
	74-81	C	Good (generally correct execution with a certain number of significant errors)
Satisfactorily	64-73	D	Satisfactorily (not bad, but with a significant number of flaws.)
	60-63	E	Enough (performance meets the minimum criteria)
Unsatisfactorily	35-59	FX	Unsatisfactorily (with the possibility of re-assembly)
	0-34	F	Unsatisfactorily (with a mandatory retake of the course)

3. Policy:

3.1 Higher education students are required to adhere to academic integrity standards, specifically:

- completing independently all types of work, assignments, and forms of assessment prescribed by the course syllabus;
- citing sources of information when using ideas, developments, statements, or data;
- complying with legislation regarding copyright and related rights;
- providing accurate information regarding the results of their own academic (research, creative) activities, research methodologies employed, and sources of information.

3.2. Recognition of learning outcomes obtained through non-formal (informal) education is permitted; specifically, practical and independent assignments may be awarded between 5 and 20 points per content module topic, provided the student holds a certificate for that topic or a related field issued by a massive open online course (MOOC) platform, training center, academic mobility program, etc.

3.3. To receive a passing grade for the course, students must obtain the minimum required number of points for each type of graded assignment and for all forms of assessment.

3.4. Rescheduling assignment deadlines:

- rescheduling due to valid reasons is permitted without a reduction in the maximum possible score, provided the instructor is notified in advance—either personally or through the group representative—regarding the reason for the delay and the proposed new deadline;
- rescheduling without a valid reason entails a reduction in the maximum possible score for the assignment.

3.5. If plagiarism is detected, the assignment must be revised, and the maximum possible score will be reduced.

3.6. Classes missed without a valid reason must be made up according to an individual schedule agreed upon with the instructor. 3.7. Academic work completed by a higher education student during a period of academic mobility may be recognized and credited.

4. Literature

1. Прищенко С. Кольорознавство: навчальний посібник. 3-тє вид., випр. і доповн. К.: Видавничий дїм «Кондор», 2018. 436 с., 32 іл.
3. Прокопович Т.А. Основи кольорознавства: навч. посіб. Друге видання, доповнене,
4. перероблене. Луцьк: Волинський національний університет ім. Лесі Українки, 2022. 124 с.
5. Прокопович Т.А., Каленюк О.М., Вахрамєєва Г.І. Основи кольорознавства та декоративно-прикладного мистецтва: навч. посіб. Луцьк: Поліграфічний центр «Друк Формат», ФПО Покора І. О., 2019. 91 с.
6. The Elements of Composition. The Complete Guide Visual principles for Art, Photography, & Film. StudioBinder. 2022. 99p.
7. Денисенко С. М. Основи композиції і проєктної графіки [Електронне видання]: навчальний посібник. К: НАУ, 2021. 52 с.
8. Клименюк Т.М. Креслення, рисунок, композиція: навчальний посібник. Львів: Видавництво Львівської політехніки, 2018. 300 с.