



## MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, KERALA

### Abstract

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Applied Arts - First Semester - Inclusion of an additional course to the Multi Disciplinary Course basket and approval of the syllabus for the same - Approved - Orders issued.

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### ACA 16

No. 5373/ACA 16/2025/MGU

Priyadarsini Hills, Dated: 11.06.2025

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*Read:-* 1. U.O.No.5797/AC A16/2024/MGU, dated. 27.06.2024

2. Recommendations of the Expert Committee on Fine Arts (UG)

3. Orders of the Vice Chancellor under Section 10(17), Chapter III of the Mahatma Gandhi University Act 1985, dated. 10.06.2025..

### ORDER

The syllabi of various Honours Under Graduate Programmes coming under the MGU-UGP (Honours) Regulations, 2024, have been approved vide paper read as (1) above and published on the website of the university.

The Expert Committee on Fine Arts (UG) has recommended vide paper read as (2) above, adding one more course, **MG1MDCAAS101: Nature as Design**, to the Multi Disciplinary Course basket in the First Semester of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) Applied Arts programme from the academic year 2025 - 2026.

**(Detailed syllabus for the course is attached as Annexure.)**

Considering the urgency, sanction has been accorded by the Vice Chancellor, in exercise of the powers of the Academic Council vested upon him under Section 10(17), Chapter III of the Mahatma Gandhi University Act 1985, vide paper read as (3) above, to approve the said recommendations.

Orders are issued accordingly.

SUDHA MENON J

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR III  
(ACADEMIC)  
For REGISTRAR

Copy To

1. PS TO VC
2. PA to Registrar/CE

3. JR 2 (ADMIN)/DR 2, AR 3 (ACADEMIC)
4. JR/DR/AR (Exam)
5. Convenor, Expert Committee, Fine Arts (UG)
6. Tabulation / Academic Sections Concerned
7. AC C1/ AC C2 Sections
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- 10 . Stock File/ File Copy

File No: 51471/AC A16-3/2025/ACA 16.

Forwarded / By Order

Section Officer



# Mahatma Gandhi University

## Kottayam

<b>Programme</b>	BFA (Hons) Applied Arts				
<b>Course Name</b>	Nature as Design				
<b>Type of Course</b>	MDC				
<b>Course Code</b>	MG1MDCAAS101				
<b>Course Level</b>	100-199				
<b>Course Summary</b>	This course transforms how students see the world by treating nature as the ultimate design school. Through direct observation of leaves, stones, and urban debris, students will develop a designer's eye for pattern, composition, and material possibilities. Hands-on projects using found natural/man-made objects build fundamental design skills. By documenting patterns and creating simple compositions, students learn to extract design from everyday materials.				
<b>Semester</b>	1	Credits			3
<b>Course Details</b>	Learning Approach	Lecture	Tutorial	Practical	Others
		1	1	1	
<b>Pre-requisites</b>					
					Total Hours
					60

### COURSE OUTCOMES (CO)

CO No.	Expected Course Outcome	Learning Domains *	PO No
1	Develop observational skills to systematically identify and classify design principles (e.g., symmetry, fractals, hierarchy) in natural/urban environments.	K, U, An, Ap	1, 3, 10
2	Collect, categorize, and catalog natural/man-made patterns (textures, rhythms, structures) using rubrics and taxonomic systems.	K, U, An, S	1, 2, 7
3	Create small-scale compositions applying design principles (balance, contrast, hierarchy) using only found objects/natural materials.	A, C, S, I	2,3,7

4	Demonstrate design principle application through iterative making, showing progressive refinement across 3 versions of one work.	A, E, C, S	4,8
5	Document and reflect on the personal design process through a visual/physical journal that connects observations to creations.	E, Ap, I	5,6,9
<b>*Remember (K), Understand (U), Apply (A), Analyse (An), Evaluate (E), Create (C), Skill (S), Interest (I) and Appreciation (Ap)</b>			

## COURSE CONTENT

### Content for Classroom transactions (units)

Module	Unit	Course description	Hrs	CO No.
1	<b>Training the Designer's Eye (Observation)</b>			
	1.1	The art of seeing: What makes ordinary objects "designed"?	6	1
	1.2	Nature's sketchbook: Documenting lines/shapes in leaves, bark, shells	10	1, 5
	1.3	Colour scavenging: Creating a natural pigment palette	8	3
2	<b>Nature's Pattern Library (Documentation)</b>			
	2.1	Design with repeated elements	6	2
	2.2	Symmetry and asymmetry Mirror images in natural elements	6	1, 2
	2.3	Rubbings & tracings: Capturing textures from surfaces	6	2, 5
3	<b>From Observation to Design (Application)</b>			
	3.1	Nature-inspired motifs: Simplifying found patterns	6	3, 4
	3.2	Hybrid designs: Combining natural/man-made materials	6	3,5
	3.3	Scale play: Repeating small elements for big impact	6	4
4	<b>Teacher Specific Content</b>			

<b>Teaching and Learning Approach</b>	<b>Classroom Procedure (Mode of transaction)</b> Lecture (PowerPoint presentation), Interactive Instruction: Outdoor Visits, Tutorials, Group Discussion, Demonstration of experiments, Assignments, Class Projects.	
<b>Assessment Types</b>	<b>MODE OF ASSESSMENT (Practical)</b> <b>A. Continuous Comprehensive Assessment (CCA) 25 Marks</b>	
	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Marks</b>
	Class Projects	15
	Process Journal	5
	Peer Critique	5
	<b>B. End Semester Evaluation (ESE) 50 Marks</b>	
	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Marks</b>
	Concept & Research	20
	Design Execution	20
	Exhibition & Viva	10

### References

Ball, Philip. *Patterns in Nature: Why the Natural World Looks the Way It Does*. University of Chicago Press, 2016.

Duerr, Sasha. *Natural Color: Vibrant Plant Dye Projects*. Watson-Guptill, 2016.

Macnab, Maggie. *Design by Nature: Using Universal Forms and Principles in Design*. New Riders, 2011.

McDonough, William, and Michael Braungart. *The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability—Designing for Abundance*. North Point Press, 2013.

## Syllabus