

NABA

NUOVA ACCADEMIA
DI BELLE ARTI

SUMMMER COURSES

A.Y. 2025-26
SYLLABUS

Lighting design

3rd session: July 28th – August 7th 2026

www.naba.it



Lighting design

School: Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti Milano (NABA)

Address: Via Darwin 20, 20143 Milan, Italy

Phone: + 39.02.973.192 *E-mail:* summer@naba.it

Course Structure: 45 hours – 9 lesson days

ECTS: 3 ECTS credits*

Advanced level

*ECTS credits only awarded to university students or participants who are completing or have completed a university or academic study path

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course offers a comprehensive introduction to the art of lighting and its associated functions, examining technical and stylistic aspects. Emphasizing both theoretical and practical perspectives, it equips students to undertake lighting projects across diverse settings. This is an introductory, yet complete, exploration of the intricate relationship between light and design.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be required to acquire specific knowledge of light sources, fixtures and systems, from a cultural and a technical point of view. They will be asked to merge those two essential aspects choosing one of the following paths:

- **Design a lamp:** Design a luminaire suitable for an interior use: could be a table lamp, a ceiling/pendant lamp, or a wall lamp. The exercise involves a more focused attention on materials and shapes of the object.
- **Play with Lights:** Design a lighting project of a defined space using dedicated software. The case-history plan will be provided by the faculty.

The path will influence only the project work and all the lessons must be followed by all students, no matter which path they decide to take.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

This course is designed for final-year university design students.

The course is intended to be an introduction in the lighting design field.

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OUTPUT

The final submission will consist in a brief presentation that includes all the relevant material produced during the course, (i.e. research, moodboard, sketches, technical drawings, renderings, etc.) - More details will be provided to the participants.

Moreover, the student that will choose the product design path ("Design a lamp") have to deliver a physical or digital mockup of the object, while the student that decide to follow the Lighting project path ("Play with lights") have to present their layout with different digital tools.

LIST OF MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- Laptop (preferable Windows operating system);
- Digital Camera or mobile phone camera;
- Sketching materials.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is required for successful completion of the course. Attendance will be taken every class period. On the last day of classes, instructors will issue a Certificate of successful attendance only to all students who completed at least 80% of the course.

COURSE POLICY

The Faculty of NABA takes Academic integrity seriously. Instances of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism won't be tolerated. Mobile phones will be kept switched off all the time during class. Use of laptop during classes for personal purposes is forbidden.

TEACHING METHODS

Lectures, studio work, field trips.

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Grading

Total number of ECTS assigned for the successful completion of the course: 3 ECTS

GRADING SYSTEM

GRADING WEIGHTS	GRADING SCALE				
1. Attendance 30%	Excellent = 90-100				
2. Participation and creative process 40%	Good = 80-89				
3. Final work / final presentation 30%	Average = 70-79				
TOTAL 100%	Below Average = 60-69				
	Poor = 59 or below				
	EXCELLENT 90 -100%	GOOD 80 – 89%	AVERAGE 70 – 79%	BELOW AVERAGE 60 – 69%	POOR BELOW 60%
Attendance (30%)	On time, perfect attendance	Seldom late: attended between 95% and 90 % of the course	Occasionally late: attended between 90 % and 85 % of the course	Occasionally late: attended between 85% and 80% of the course	Frequently late, attended less than 80% of the course: FAILED
Participation and Creative Process (40 %)	Demonstrates strong understanding of the topic & thorough, creative research	Shows good grasp of the topic & good research	Exhibits average comprehension of the topic & average research	Shows some awareness of the topic & below average awareness of research	Has shallow insight into the topic & poor grasp of research
Original Project (Final work/ Final presentation) (30%)	Exhibits exceptional analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits exceptional analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits average analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits below average analysis of concepts & production of original proposal	Exhibits poor analysis of concepts & production of original proposal

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1st week

COURSE SCHEDULE*

DAY		LESSON-SUBJECT
Day 1 - Tuesday	NABA Staff	Welcome and Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course kick-off: presentation, objectives, expected outcomes.• Introduction to the theme of light: from a cultural behaviour to the design language.
Day 2 - Wednesday		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lightsources (parameters, peculiarities, comparisons).• Light fixtures , optics and applications.
Day 3 - Thursday		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From lightsources to luminaires, from luminaires to space.• Project launch - Brief definition, explanation and design tips.• Introduction to lighting software calculation.
Day 4 - Friday		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Field trip*</i>

*The Academy reserves the right to:

- amend or cancel courses, change course location or substitute course leaders, professors, guests, visits location;
- make any changes that in our absolute discretion we consider necessary or appropriate for reasons of operational efficiency or due to any other circumstances that are beyond our control.

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2st week

COURSE SCHEDULE*

DAY	LESSON-SUBJECT
Day 5 - Monday	DESIGN WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• design process, research and analysis;• review on preliminary drafts.
Day 6 - Tuesday	DESIGN WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• project session: product/series development from sketches to product - group critics;• deepening on design languages.
Day 7 - Wednesday	DIALUX or RELUX <ul style="list-style-type: none">• exercise on lighting software calculation;• use of the lighting software related to the students project.
Day 8 - Thursday	DESIGN WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• _ project development;• _ mock-up / testing.
Day 9 - Friday	DESIGN WORKSHOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• presentation session: final reviews and exhibition set up.

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