

Guidelines on Contemporary Topics Courses

17 July 2025

Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish the framework and procedures for the development, approval, and offering of Contemporary Topics courses.

Scope

These guidelines apply to all academic programs and faculty members proposing Contemporary Topics courses at KAUST.

Guidelines

Contemporary Topics:

1. provide faculty with the flexibility to introduce emerging, interdisciplinary, or experimental content not yet part of the standard curriculum, thereby enriching the academic experience and ensuring responsiveness to advances in engineering, science, and technology.
2. are offered under the generic Contemporary Topics course code XXX X94 and are not part of the permanent curriculum until made a permanent course.
3. can only be offered for a maximum of two years
 - If the course is not offered within two years after approval, it will be cancelled
 - If the course is offered but not made permanent two years after approval, it will be archived.
 - Proposals to make a Contemporary Topic permanent must be submitted to the UCC for endorsement within two years of its initial approval.
4. may be offered twice, within two years after approval, under the same title and content without formal adoption into the permanent curriculum.
5. shall not replace regular or core curriculum courses.
6. require Program Chair endorsement and University Curriculum Committee (UCC) approval.
7. shall not be developed or approved for the sole purpose of enabling individual students to graduate.
8. must be scheduled in a timely manner to allow adequate student advising and registration.
9. must follow standard academic policies and practice related to credit hours, instructional time, and assessment.

Exceptions

The UCC is responsible for enforcing this policy. Any exceptions must be justified in writing and formally approved by the UCC.