ہائیر ایجوکیشن کمیشن

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Government of Pakistan, Islamabad

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Office of the
Director Curriculum
Academics Division

No. HEC/CURR/UGEP/CD/AA/2025/8269
October 28, 2025

SUBJECT: **Course Outlines for "Arts and Humanities" under the General Education Component of the Undergraduate Education Policy (Version 1.1)**

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad has introduced a two (02) credit hour **mandatory** course titled "Arts and Humanities" under the General Education component of the Undergraduate Education Policy (Version 1.1). To provide uniform guidance for all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) regarding the minimum content and related requirements of this course, HEC has developed standardized course outlines for Arts and Humanities.

02. Please find enclosed the course outlines for information and necessary action towards their adoption by your institution.

SALEEMULLAH SOHOO

Vice Chancellors/Rectors/Heads
All Public/Private Sector Universities/DAIs.

Copy for information to:

1. ES to Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
2. ES to Executive Director, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
3. PS to Consultant, Quality Assurance, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
4. PS to Managing Director, NAHE, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
5. PS to Advisor, Human Resource Development Division, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
6. PS to Director General, Academics Division, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
7. PS to Director General, A&A Division, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
8. PS to Director General, Higher Education Commission, Regional Centers in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar & Quetta.
9. Director / In-charge, Higher Education Data Repository, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
10. Director / In-charge, Quality Assurance Agency, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.

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(Curriculum Division)

ENDORSEMENT OF THE COURSE DESIGN COMMITTEE

A meeting of a course design committee was held on **October 22, 2025** in the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad to design a two-credits course of **"Arts & Humanities"** as part of the General Education component of the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy (V 1.1).

Following members of the committee attended the meeting and developed the draft of the course:

1. Dr. Farzand Masih, Professor & Chairperson, Department of History, Forman Christian College University, Lahore.
2. Dr. Muhammad Umar Nadeem, Associate Professor & HoD, Department of Mass Communication, School of Social Sciences & Humanities, National University of Sciences & Technology, Islamabad.
3. Dr. Natasha Kiran, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy & Interdisciplinary Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.
4. Dr. Saira Batool, Associate Professor & Chairperson, Department of Urdu, International Islamic University, Islamabad.
5. Dr. Shahida Mansoor, Professor, Department of Arts & Design, COMSATS University, Islamabad.
6. Dr. Shuja Ahmad, Assistant Professor & HoD, Department of Philosophy, University of Peshawar, Peshawar.
7. Dr. Sajida Zaki, Professor & Chairperson, Department of English Linguistics & Allied Studies, NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi.
8. Dr. Tahir Mahmood, Professor & Director, Institute of Social & Cultural Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.
9. Dr. Tahir Saleem, Professor & HoD, Department of English, University of Central Punjab, Lahore.
10. Engr. Saleemullah Sohoo, Director, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
11. Mr. Arif Mahmood, Assistant Director, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.
12. Mr. Qammar Abbas, Assistant Director, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad.

Following members of the committee could not attend the meeting due to official / other commitments:

1. Dr. Rabia Umar Ali, Professor, Department of History, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.
2. Prof. Rashid Rana, Professor & Dean, Marian Dawood School of Visual Arts and Design, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore.
3. Dr. Rauf Raz, Assistant Professor, Institute of Balochi Language & Culture, University of Turbat, Turbat.

That, after consultation and endorsement of the committee, the final draft of course outline is hereby submitted to the office of the Director Curriculum Division, HEC, Islamabad by us / the undersigned on behalf of the committee for consideration of HEC.

Dr. Sajida Zaki	**Dr. Shuja Ahmad**	**Engr. Saleemullah Sohoo**
(Convener)	(Co- Convener)	(Secretary)

PLEASE NOTE:

1. The Curriculum Division, HEC may conduct an internal review of the draft submitted by the committee and make necessary amendments as and when needed, with or without sharing reasons of the same with the committee.
2. The Curriculum Division, HEC may refer the draft submitted by the committee to other experts or a new committee for review who may propose revisions / additional recommendations in the said draft.

ART & HUMANITIES
UGE Policy V 1.1: General Education Course

Credits: 02
Pre-Requisite: Nil
Offering: Undergraduate Degrees (including Associate Degrees)
Placement: 1-4 semesters
Type: General Education
Fields: All

DESCRIPTION

The course is an introductory study of core disciplinary knowledge in Arts and Humanities significant to individuals, and societies. It focuses on creating awareness among students about the fundamental ideas, issues, and tools related to arts, language, literature, philosophy, history, and communication. It helps understand how the principles and applications from the diverse arts and humanities disciplinary areas impact cultures and societies and leads to the development of ethics and values.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a reflective and critical understanding of life, knowledge, and values through philosophical inquiry.
2. Identify major styles of arts from the Western and Non-Western cultures using technical terminology related to arts and representative visual examples.
3. Understand the history and evolution of languages, their interplay within cultures and societies, and apply linguistic approaches and frameworks for interpretation and handling of all languages.
4. Comprehend media practices in Pakistan through cultural, ethical, and digital perspectives to promote informed, responsible, and effective communication in contemporary media environment.

SYLLABUS

1. **Introduction to Philosophy**
   - Interpreting Philosophy and its significance.
   - Main branches: Metaphysics, Axiology, and Epistemology.
   - Ethics & Aesthetics: Moral principles that guide human behavior; What is right and what is wrong? Where do values come from? Aesthetics - a branch of philosophy concerned with the nature of beauty.
   - Logic and Critical Thinking: Deductive and Inductive arguments; Habits of Critical Thinkers; Informal Fallacies.
   - Connect Philosophical ideas with broader cultural experience and study their impact on history, politics, media, and communication.
2. **History of Arts and Culture**
   - Basic elements of Arts: Line, colour, shape, form, texture, rhythm, balance, contrast, harmony, and value.
   - History of civilisations and art styles: Indus, Mesopotamia, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Jomon.
   - History of the Western and Non-Western art: Western arts after Christianity till World War I; Arts in the West after World War II: Rejection of realism and beginning of abstract expression; Arts in the Islamic World: Vegetative, geometric, figurative, and calligraphic expressions in Arab and non-Arab world.
   - Development of arts in Pakistan: Traditional arts influenced from Mughal period, Western modernism and contemporary practices.

3. **Introduction to Language and Linguistics Studies**
    - Theories on the origin of language: Debates on the uniqueness of human language and Language families.
    - Historical perspectives on language and linguistics: Early perspectives on language. The birth of modern language studies (Structuralism, Functionalism, and Generative Approaches).
    - Language, society, and identity: Languages of Pakistan, language representing culture and identity (ethnicity, gender, and class), language and power, colonialism, nationalism, and language policies. Language endangerment and preservation. Linguistic diversity, linguistic rights, and linguistic ecology.
    - Language and cognition: Language, thought, and perception. Acquisition and processing of language.
    - Contemporary issues in language studies: Language and technology (AI, machine translation, and digital communication). Languages and globalization: English as a global language, foreign languages education, and heritage languages.
4. **Literature and Identity**
    - Urdu as National Language: Historical and cultural context.
    - Introduction to Literary Movements (e.g Aligarh Movement, Progressive Movement, Modernism, Post Modernism).
    - Introduction to Genres of Literature (e.g. Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction).
    - Introduction to prominent writers (Ghalib, Meer, Faiz, Qurat ul Ain Haider, Ashsfaq Ahmad, etc.).
    - Iqbal as National Poet of Pakistan.
5. **Media and Communication**
    - Definition, types and models of communication.
    - Evolution of media.
    - Media Laws and Ethics: Accuracy, Objectivity, Fairness.
    - Media freedom and censorships.
    - Social media platforms and citizen-journalism.
    - Fake news and fact checking.
    - Influences on Communication.
    - Intercultural Communication Effectiveness, Competence, Adjustment, and Adaptation.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL / READING MATERIAL

1. "Philosophy 101" by Paul Kleinam
2. "An Introduction to Logic" by I M Copi
3. "Contemporary Painting in Pakistan" by Marcella Nesom
4. "The meaning of art" by Herbert Read
5. "Art through the ages" by Gardners
6. "The Study of Language" by George Yule
7. "Language, cognition, and the way we think" by Nikola Kompa
8. "Language origin theories" by Grace Morgan
9. "The future of language: How technology, politics, and utopianism are transforming the way we communicate" by Philip Seargeant
10. "An introduction to linguistics and language studies" by Anne McCabe
11. "History of Urdu Literature" by Dr. Jamil Jalibi
12. "Movements of Urdu Literature" by Dr. Anwar Sadid
13. "Genres of Literature" by Rafiuddin Hashmi
14. "Zinda Rud" by Dr. Javed Iqbal
15. "Citizen Journalism" by Melissa Wall