

## Courses offered by School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Full Course Title	Program Description
<b>Jahan e Urdu</b>	This course is designed to fulfill our commitment to the vernacular, as well as to reap the potential of modern Urdu literature and criticism to illuminate decisive aspects of our modernity. Jehan-e-Urdu is a pedagogically dynamic course that will rapidly advance students' appreciation and knowledge of Urdu through engagement with powerful texts of prose and poetry selected to speak to the concerns of the student today, opening up Urdu as a living world of insight and thought.
<b>Rhetoric and Communication</b>	This course is designed to develop the reading and presentation skills that our students will need throughout their lives. Our curriculum nurtures our students' rhetorical abilities throughout their college career. Rhetoric and Communication is designed to first identify the different aspects of expression and eloquence as distinct and essential abilities, and to develop and improve them through application and practice.
<b>Logical Problem Solving</b>	Taking a comparative, experiential approach to the subject, this course introduces you to definitions of logic and frameworks and approaches to the logical analysis of arguments and problems. This course trains you to think critically about the various frameworks and approaches in logic, and to formulate thoughtful responses to questions of deduction, induction, validity, truth, and the very meaning and purpose of logic. Here, you will learn to employ logic pragmatically, as a complex of theoretical and analytical tools for structuring inquiry and argumentation in situations of indeterminacy that arise in experience, both academic and the broader lived experience. This course trains you to think in terms of schemes of symbolic representation. You will be introduced to various frameworks for generating logical inquiry and addressing the question of validity at the heart of it.
<b>Critical Inquiry and the Humanities: Love and Desire</b>	This course consists of four units: History, Literature, Philosophy and Religious Studies. Using the central organizing theme for this course, which is love and desire, you will explore how each of these disciplines frames and examines some aspect of a broad complex issue that transcends a single academic discipline. Using the love and desire meta-theme of this course, you will consider what sorts of questions historians, scholars of literature, philosophers and religious studies scholars ask about love and desire, and how they analyze the topic and pursue answers to the questions they ask. By bringing together these four major disciplinary fields in the humanities, you will both learn something about how each discipline works and also about how intellectual discourse crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. Through this course you will also develop a deeper appreciation for differing perspectives.
<b>Introduction to Western Philosophy</b>	This course aims to provide a systematic introduction to the main problems of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and aesthetics, as addressed in the Western philosophical tradition. It familiarizes students with central debates in Western philosophy and permits them an overview of the works of some of the discipline's most pertinent thinkers. Along with reading texts by classic figures such as Plato, Descartes, Hume, and Kant, students will also get to study contemporary thinkers such as Simone de Beauvoir, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Edmund Husserl, Hannah Arendt, Martha Nussbaum, and Derrida. Students will learn to engage with various philosophical issues critically, to compare them analytically, and to translate what they mean for the present. In so doing, students will acquire the critical analytical vocabulary to understand our current socio-political predicament in a reflected and philosophically-informed way.

<p><b>Divine Proportions: Introduction to Islamic Calligraphy</b></p>	<p>Islamic Art is intimately tied to the Divine Revelation fusing truth and beauty as one and the same. The role of Islamic Art, according to Seyyed Hoosein Nasr, is not just to provide a historical understanding of art, but to mold the soul of the artist. Taking the example of calligraphy, we can liken the calligrapher to the reed pen, where one needs to empty themselves just as a hollow pen in order for the Divine to flow through. The ink itself is a metaphor for the latter. In Islamic origin myth, the first thing that God created was qalam (pen). The first sound probably would be the screeching of the qalam (sareer ul-qalam) when the God inscribed the divine word on the Preserved Tablet (loh emahfuz). The writing holds a paramount significance in Islamic cultures. Throughout the centuries, Muslim scribes and calligraphers perfect the art of writing. In pre-modern Muslim societies, it was an elementary learning aimed at grounding students firmly in the art and sciences of letters.</p>
<p><b>Introduction to Photography</b></p>	<p>This course explores the basics of photography and covers how photography plays an integral part in today's society. The course will also cover the history of photography to the working of a camera. Understanding of light is key. The world and everything in it, is perceived through reflected light. The course has been designed to introduce you to basic photography techniques as well as expanding your knowledge on photography.</p>
<p><b>Communication and Culture</b></p>	<p>The course is meant to lay down the foundation in culture theories and contextualise the overarching field of communications and cultural studies. This course serves as a launch pad for further specific area studies, equipping the students with specific terms and theories that will be repeated again and again, in their degree. The course covers a wide array of topics in a fun and engaging manner. The course will help in trying to understand how culture was once the act of cultivating crops and domesticating animals and has over the years become a domain of arts and crafts. From the Industrial revolution to ever-popular memes, from classical music to K-Pop, students must brace themselves for a learning experience that merges history, technology, culture, communication and ends at the much-debated creative industries and creative economy.</p>
<p><b>Intro to Film Production</b></p>	<p>This course provides an extensive overview of Film/ Video Production. The two main aims of this course are Visual Storytelling and Professional Work Ethics in a Film Production environment. This course is designed to equip every student with the ability to tell the most interesting stories they want to share with the world and learn how to professionally shoot/ edit and deliver Video Projects. It will help lay a foundation for future courses such as Directing, Advanced Editing, Intermediate Film and Thesis.</p>
<p><b>Foundations of Screenwriting</b></p>	<p>This course teaches basic concepts of screenwriting, with an emphasis on storytelling and dramatic structure. Students will learn how core concepts of plot, character, and conflict can be used to tell universal stories, as well as express one's personal vision. Through readings, discussions, and writing assignments, students will practice key skills, including how to use the written word to express film elements such as sound, production design, cinematography, and editing.</p>

<p><b>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</b></p>	<p>This course introduces students to the intricacies of human cultures and highlights the interlacing of cultural patterns with the forces of modernity. For instance, how do gift-exchange practices of local communities help us understand the politics of international aid? How do rituals of magic explain the commodity fetishism of capitalism? Does understanding cultural theories of identity help us rethink notions of the modern developmental subject? Does tribal social organization undergird or conflict with the modern nation-state? Addressing questions like these will provoke students to think critically of culture as an important tool for making sense of patterns of contemporary social development.</p>
<p><b>Principles of Microeconomics</b></p>	<p>Economics studies the social construction of the material side of our life. A focus on production and exchange distinguishes economics from other social studies focused on culture (the concern of anthropology), government and state policy (political science), or social networks (sociology). Focusing on the social organization of production and exchange distinguishes economics from engineering and psychology. Economics examines production as a social process where people work with each other, often exchanging or sharing the products of their labor. In microeconomics, we focus on how individual economic decision makers -- households, firms, workers, and the government -- make economic choices and how these decision makers interact with each other through markets and other social institutions such as class. Our goal in this course is to take some initial steps towards understanding how each part of the economic system works, how the parts work together, and to apply this knowledge to a broad range of social and economic issues.</p>
<p><b>Introduction to Political Science</b></p>	<p>This course aims to provide an introduction to the study of politics. It will address first the main concern of the discipline, i.e. the analysis of the nature and features of social power and the features of some of the most important contemporary political institutions. The subfield of Comparative Politics informs the approach of this course, as it deals with political regimes and issues across different countries. More specifically, the course addresses themes such as the nature of social power, state and civil society, regime types (authoritarianism, democracy, hybrid regimes), democratic institutions and democratization, security, political ideologies, political economy, and contentious politics.</p>
<p><b>Development and Social Change</b></p>	<p>Development is one of the principal ideas of our time. The stated purpose of national and international development programs is to improve the quality of life of people, whether through training, construction of roads and water supply schemes, or the improvement of health services. At the same time, the distribution of the benefits of development policies and projects are becoming more skewed and the harmful effects of large-scale development projects are becoming more prominent. The purpose of this foundational course is to get you as students to think about the situations by introducing you to the history, theory, and the contemporary practice of development.</p>

<p><b>The Subversive Muse: Contemporary Urdu Prose Poem</b></p>	<p>Urdu prose poem became a significant genre since the early 1970s with the emergence of a group of poets, who embraced the new form as the most suitable to express the crude, fragmented realities of our times. Infused with postmodern sensibility and with an understanding of the complex new poetics devoid of lyricism of rhyme and meter, the clique found its aesthetics initially unacceptable for the literary establishment of Urdu, but the genre soon developed as the mainstream poetic expression and a challenge to the previously existing forms. An understanding of this genre will enable the students to develop a critical social consciousness along with an understanding of aesthetically sublime literature of resistance and protest. Thus the course will enrich the students' minds and lives, helping them contribute positively to the larger community. This is an Urdu Literature course with Urdu texts as prescribed readings. The students enrolled in this course must have proficiency in Urdu language and interest in Urdu literature. The students will be exposed to the literary masterpieces of Urdu prose poetry and the discussions will entail close readings of the texts as well as analyses of sociopolitical and existential issues faced by us every day.</p>
<p><b>Russia and the World: Global Interactions from Peter I to Putin</b></p>	<p>Teaching a history of Russia through its interaction with the "West" and the "East," focusing on how external influences shaped Russian history and how Russia influenced the world (particularly the late 19th through the 21st centuries). Explore the problematic dichotomies of "East" and "West" and the non-linear exchange of politics, ideas and culture with Europe, Asia and the Middle East.</p>
<p><b>What is Philosophy?</b></p>	<p>Taking a comparative approach to the subject matter, this course investigates the original writings of a range of contemporary philosophers, where they have problematized and responded to the "what is philosophy?" question. The writings under consideration help us grapple with differing frameworks and conceptual lenses for understanding approaches to the complex, fundamental question of philosophy, and the process, work, purpose, and history of philosophy. This course calls for consistent focus on careful reading, writing, research, presentation assignments, and intensive class participation commitment.</p>
<p><b>Sound and Subjectivity: Listening to the Other</b></p>	<p>Every known human culture and community has produced music or exhibited sonic practices that can be classified as 'music'. Music is immensely meaningful and moving for the communities that it belongs to. However, the experience of listening to sound and music from cultures and contexts that are unfamiliar to us, can be both blissful and elating, as well as bizarre and alienating. The affect produced by strange sounds and foreign musical structures is determined by the subjectivities that constitute our own ways of listening. What then, is the nature of listening? How should we listen to, engage with, and understand music from other cultures, contexts, and traditions? How have disciplines like anthropology, musicology, and ethnomusicology historically addressed and understood non-western music? What are the variety of meanings- social, cultural, religious, and political- that music continues to be imbued with? What does our experience of listening to the Other tell us about ourselves? These questions form the core basis of inquiry in this course. This is a survey course of selected musical cultures and traditions of the world that is organized through an aural geography that takes the subjectivity of our listening as its point of departure.</p>

**Latin American History**

The course has its simultaneous focus on the Pakistani intellectual inheritance and on the legacy of Western knowledge, from which Latin America is a part. The course demonstrates how regions like Pakistan and Latin America, although geographically and culturally distant, share similar political, social, and economic problems. As relevant issues such as colonization, decolonization, periphery, national identity, and economic dependence come up throughout the classes and assigned readings, students will realize how Pakistan and Latin American have much more in common than they could imagine.