

THE HABIB LIBERAL CORE



HABIB UNIVERSITY:

UNIVERSITY AVENUE, OFF SHAHRAH-E-FAISAL, GULISTAN-E-JAUHAR, KARACHI

The Habib Liberal Core

Habib University is focused on ensuring that all students have a grounding in the local cultural context. This duality of both looking to the past and the future is embodied by the two-headed Roman mythology figure, Janus, who represented doorways and beginnings. Habib University symbolizes the beginning of a change in higher education in Pakistan as we shift towards an interdisciplinary educational model, while looking towards the past and preparing for the future simultaneously.



The Liberal Arts and Sciences

Habib University's (HU) unique approach towards undergraduate education is based on the Liberal Arts and Sciences model of education. The essence of a Liberal Arts and Sciences education is its interdisciplinary nature; a Liberal Arts and Sciences education enables the learner to adapt to social and technological change, thereby helping them integrate into a constantly evolving modern world.

Integrating HU's curriculum with the Liberal Arts and Sciences helps students venture beyond a focused field of study, step out of their comfort zones, and gain exposure to a broad and inclusive range of subjects while developing their cognitive skills.

The study of a broad range of subjects dates back to Ancient Athens, Greece, where citizens were expected to study all possible disciplines in order to participate in Athen's public and political spheres. The Greek philosopher, Plato, once wrote that while everyone has the "capacity of knowledge", real education was "the art of orientation". Derived from Latin, education originally meant to train, mold and to lead out. Education was more than just about gaining technical skills or landing a specific job. Education, in the classical sense, was intended to foster intelligent, and socially-aware citizens.



The Habib Liberal Core

Knowledge of the expanse and richness of history and literature, of the wonder of scientific and mathematical inquiry and of the ever-evolving nature of the world hones an individual into a versatile, conscientious and articulate being. The Habib Liberal Core casts a wide net across the humanities, arts, natural, and social sciences in order to give every student the opportunity to broaden their toolkit for the critical appraisal of the world in which they live, as well as the knowledge and sensibility required to generate concepts to tackle new realities.

The Habib Liberal Core comprises ten courses based on seven "Forms of Thought" which form the philosophical backbone upon which all of HU's learning is centered. These principles of knowledge creation and absorption have been adapted and re-amalgamated to the local context of South Asia. The Liberal Core curriculum draws inspiration from top institutions around the world including Stanford University, Harvard University, and Harvey Mudd College.

Students will engage with concepts of modern civilizations, harness the skills of deductive reasoning and develop an appreciation for the natural and social sciences. All courses taught have boundless academic breadth and depth, and are locally contextualized to provide students with a shared foundation for understanding the historical and conceptual underpinnings of the modern world and Pakistan's role in it.

The Liberal Core commences with the systematic development of reading, interpretation, analysis, communication, and presentation skills that will continue to be improved throughout students' undergraduate careers. The humanities and social sciences component of the curriculum is built around a recurring multidisciplinary engagement with the history, structures, and features of the modern world. The Liberal Core curriculum includes universally required courses in deductive and quantitative reasoning, natural scientific method and analysis, as well as the nature and place of science in modern societies

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The privilege of studying at a Liberal Arts and Sciences university has provided me with a vast range of possibilities. The Liberal Core has allowed me to cultivate reasoning and imagination in my life. It permits me to see every dimension of my daily life from friendships to culture and society to understand the good in it, and therefore to live a rich, well-formed life in light of that understanding. According to Plato, the philosopher who sees the good itself always returns to the cave; the soul that has seen beauty produces good works like just laws, noble speeches, brave actions, and art works of serious value.

My liberal arts education has already helped me become a more effective thinker and communicator. My selected programs have given me a firm understanding of the professional context which has helped me greatly in my non-academic life. While still a junior in college and working my first internship at an advertising firm I was not only asked to make final editions but also assist in presentations to potential clients. If I didn't have my liberal arts background, I don't think I'd process information or analyze things the same way.

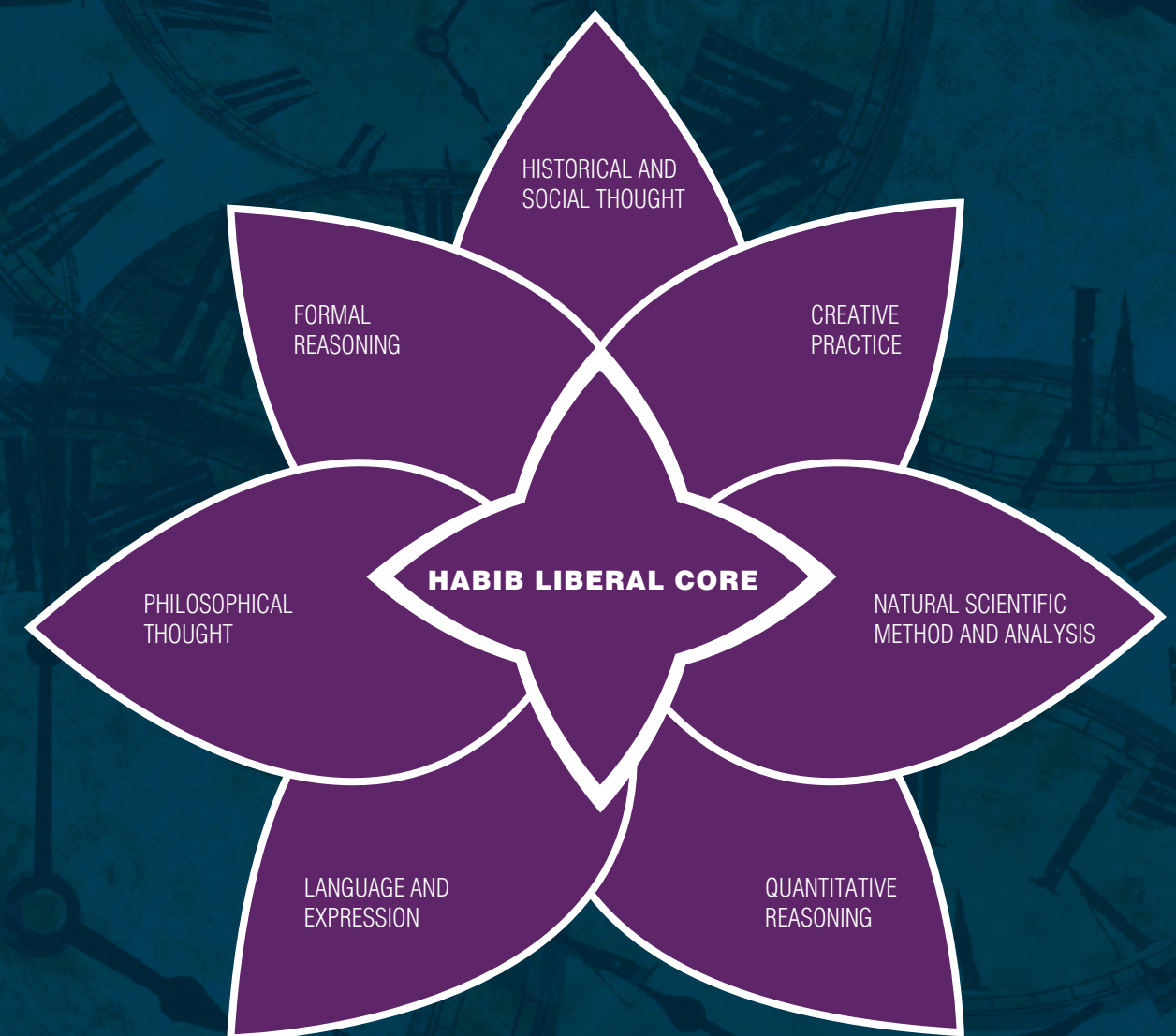
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Areeha Batool Hussain

Communication and Design, Class of 2020

The seven Forms of Thought expose students to the insights, perspectives, and analytical tools offered by the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics.

All Liberal Core courses are categorized under the Forms of Thought:



Historical and Social Thought

The unprecedented change in the pace of modernity and the growing complexity of modern society makes it imperative for historical and social thought to be studied and researched. This Form of Thought focuses on investigating the historical and social nature of reality and seeks to impart scientific objectivity. Students will identify and study key historical events that continue to influence the contemporary reality.

All students have to take two courses under this Form of Thought.

Philosophical Thought

The study of philosophy has traditionally been at the heart of liberal core curricula. Philosophical thought serves to enhance both the rigor, and the reflective powers of the student, essential to concept-generation and innovation in all fields. Furthermore, traditions atrophy when their philosophical dimension is relinquished. A sense of the philosophical depth of a tradition is crucial to a rich sense of inheritance.

All students have to take two courses under this Form of Thought.

Language and Expression

The development of linguistic and expressive abilities is widely recognized to be a key benefit of a liberal arts and sciences education. Communicative power is key to leadership and success across fields and disciplines. This is why eloquence in the broadest sense is one of the most highly valued tenets of a liberal arts education. The opening course in our Habib Liberal Core is designed to develop reading and presentation skills – written, oral, applicative, and visual – that our students will need to excel at Habib University and beyond.

All students have to take two courses under this Form of Thought.

Formal Reasoning

In an increasingly mechanized world, the ability to handle abstractions and apply deductive reasoning – the application of systematic methods to infer new results from known premises – is crucial. Deductive thinking and reasoning are crucial across fields and disciplines in both science and engineering, as well as the social sciences and humanities. Students are taught to think logically, act logically, and ultimately do logically. Whether students are solving a math equation, or trying to understand a Macbeth soliloquy, they do so with reason.

All students have to take one course under this Form of Thought.

Quantitative Reasoning

Numbers are an essential part of modern civilization and its forms of knowledge. The ability to handle and operationalize large amounts of data, quantitative reasoning and analytical skills is a crucial life skill. Quantitative Reasoning is the ability to understand numbers and their relationships associated with a dataset to analyse and interpret the information it holds. Students will develop an understanding of fundamental methods of sampling, measurement and statistical inference, that can be applied to any problem.

All students have to take one course under this Form of Thought.

Creative Practice

Creativity is a way of thinking. The ability to imagine and produce coherent material artifacts is critical to broadening students' ability to express themselves beyond the written word. HU graduates have the freedom to explore their disciplines with a critical lens; they are encouraged to experiment and fail, and try yet again. It is through the rubric of creativity that success flourishes. Our students innovate, and become problem-solvers. With design as the “new liberal art of the technological culture,” and the incorporation of technology in design and making practices across disciplines, the requirement will also act as the connective fabric between the arts and sciences offerings at HU.

All students have to take one course under this Form of Thought.

Natural Scientific Method and Analysis

The development of scientific method and analysis is a crucial feature of modernity and its forms of knowledge, impacting not just the natural, but also the social sciences and humanities. The centrality of science and technology in the contemporary world is unparalleled in the history of human societies and cultures. Because of the obvious power of scientific thought to shape ideas it has been the foundation upon which notions of progress, modernity, and even freedom and liberty have been built since the end of the 18th century.

All students have to take one course under this Form of Thought.

Habib Liberal Core Course List

Currently, the Habib Liberal Core offers the following courses*, reflecting each of the 7 Forms of Thought which guide the learning process at HU:

Form of Thought	Courses
Historical & Social Thought (2)**	CORE 102: What is Modernity? CORE 201: Pakistan & Modern South Asia
Philosophical Thought (2)	CORE 202: Hikma I CORE 301: Hikma II, Or a Philosophy course identified by the University.
Language & Expression (2)	CORE 101: Rhetoric & Communication CORE 121: Jehan-e-Urdu
Quantitative Reasoning (1)	SCI 101: Introduction to Sustainability ENVS 101: Climate Change and Us Or any other course identified by the University.
Formal Reasoning (1)	CS 101: Programming Fundamentals Or any other course identified by the University to fulfill this Form of Thought
Natural Scientific Method & Analysis (1)	CORE 200: Scientific Methods Or any other course identified by the University.
Creative Practice (1)	All students are expected to take a university-approved course in Creative Practice

*Courses are subject to change annually, depending on the review and decision of the academic council.

** Number of Courses required in the relevant Form of Thought

