

Beginning Urdu

By Dr. Faiza Saleem

Course Descriptions

Beginning Urdu is a 10-week course designed for learners without any previous knowledge of Urdu language and culture. The goal of this course is to provide students with the fundamentals of Urdu grammar and help you move from novice low to novice high levels in all four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) using a curriculum designed by instructors experienced in teaching to foreign students. Using a communicative approach and an innovative blended curriculum, this course will be conducted online. The primary medium of instruction is English.

Course Objectives:

This course aims:

- To introduce and build up basic linguistic structures of Urdu.
- To foster interactional competence in Urdu in familiar settings and daily activities.
- To strengthen and expand student's knowledge of the South Asian culture, with a particular focus on Pakistan.
- To enable students confidently navigate a range of common social situations and real-world interactions with Urdu speakers

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Read and write in the Urdu script with minimal errors.
- Accurately recognize and pronounce all Urdu sounds
- Develop basic listening and speaking abilities in Urdu.
- Learn about culturally, historically, and geographically significant cities and places.
- Gain familiarity with several aspects of Pakistani culture such as festivals, food, clothes, and popular and folk culture.
- Read and write in Urdu at satisfactory speed with adequate accuracy for survival level competency.
- Make basic inquiries and negotiate practical problems (e.g. shopping, asking/giving directions, telling time).
- Participate in basic social interactions (e.g. conversation about home, family, work, school, and daily life and essentials).

Instructor Bio:

Dr. Faiza Saleem is an Adjunct Faculty member at the Center for Continuing Education. She has an extensive and diverse experience of teaching Urdu as a foreign language at graduate and post graduate levels. Faiza is currently working as a Pedagogy Development Associate (RA) at Gurmani Center MGSNSS at LUMS. She has taught on the Berkeley Urdu Language Program in Pakistan since 2014, at the University of Virginia, and also at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's South Asia Summer Language Institute. Dr. Faiza completed her PhD in Linguistics in 2019. Her research interests include; language pedagogy, language and gender socialization, and early childhood gender socialization in primary schools. She was awarded the Fulbright FLTA scholarship for the year 2013-14 as well as the Berkeley Urdu Teaching Training Fellowship, which was hosted by the University of Texas at Austin in 2017.