

The Art of Reading and Writing Urdu (CLCS 1122)

Credit Hours: 4

Pre-Req: The Pre-Requisite of the course is by instructor`s consent only. Students will email the instructor for a placement test or interview for force enrollment. Equivalent course: SALT 112

Instructor Name: Zahid Hussain

Schedule: Monday to Friday (2:00 PM – 4:50 PM)

Urdu as a language has produced masterpieces in literary texts and also possesses the capacity to express and discuss higher academic and philosophical problems and concerns. The material that exists in the Urdu language in terms of its poetry, fiction: novel – short story, drama and critical and academic writings would validate this statement. However, many are not aware of this fact, especially students educated in modern school systems in Pakistan where Urdu is taught as a second language. A large segment of students in LUMS comes from this background. On the other hand, the public sector universities which possess established Urdu language departments have not yet been able to produce or prepare students, well equipped with modern tools and methods to explore and study literary tests of Urdu that could establish their literary and academic authenticity in the modern world academia.

Keeping this situation in view this course is designed to enhance the reading and writing skills of students who have a background of studying Urdu as a second language in schools, more commonly known as schools where the medium of instruction is English or those geared towards O and A level or IB programs.

To this end, the main emphasis would be on selected Urdu texts - journalistic, literary and academic- the close reading of which, with the help of modern hermeneutic tools, will bring students closer to the genius and delicacy of the Urdu language and its literature. Along with textual study, students will learn the basics of Urdu grammar, idioms, proverbs and phrases. This will extend their pool of Urdu vocabulary and develop their skills to appreciate any kind of Urdu text.

Students would be enrolled through a selection process and only students with a weak background in Urdu would be enrolled in this course