SASLI 2025

Elementary Punjabi

UW-Madison

June 16-August 8, 2025

ASIALANG 317, ASIALANG 327

Credits: 8 Credits
By the end of the SASLI program, you will complete two four-credit language courses

Course Designations and Attributes

Foreign Language: first- and second-semester language course
L&S credits

Instructor: Dr. Kuldeep Singh, Punjabi lecturer, Email: ksingh92@wisc.edu

Meeting Time and Location: 9:00-11:00 a.m., 12:00-2:00 p.m. Central Time, Online

Office hours: Monday - Friday 3:00-4:00 pm Central Time by appointment

Institution Name: University of Wisconsin–Madison

Instructional Modality: Online only

Course Description: Punjabi is an Indo-European language with deep historical roots in the Punjab region of South Asia, where it emerged nearly a thousand years ago. The term Punjab means “Land of Five Rivers,” referring to the rivers that flow from the Himalayas and shape the region’s unique cultural and geographic identity. Today, Punjabi is spoken by over 130 million people worldwide. It is the most spoken language in Pakistan, the 10th most spoken in the world, and the third most spoken language in the United Kingdom. In California’s Central Valley, Punjabi is the third most commonly spoken language, with a vibrant and historic community that began settling in the Sacramento Valley in the 1890s.

Punjabi has produced some of the most profound and influential voices in South Asian literature, from the spiritual verses of Baba Farid, Guru Nanak, and Guru Arjan Dev to the philosophical writings of Bhai Gurdas. The rich legacy continues with classical romance epics and modern literary giants like Bhai Vir Singh, Professor Puran Singh, Afzal Ahsan Randhawa, Shiv Kumar Batalvi, and Amrita Pritam etc.. Punjabi is a living, vibrant language that connects ancient wisdom with modern expression, offering a deep well of poetry, folk tales, love legends, and progressive thought. As the saying goes, “Wherever you find a potato, you’ll find a Punjabi” a nod to the global presence and resilience of Punjabi communities.

This course introduces students to the Gurmukhi script; the primary writing system for Punjabi and equips them with foundational skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. With an emphasis on conversation, music, film, and poetry, students will gain a deep, culturally immersive experience and the ability to communicate comfortably at an intermediate level while exploring one of South Asia's most expressive and globally significant languages.

Requisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course learning outcomes: This two-semester Elementary Punjabi course is designed to provide students with a strong foundational knowledge of Standard Punjabi, focusing on all four core language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The course begins with an introduction to the Gurmukhi script, accurate pronunciation, essential grammar structures, and everyday vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on real-life communication and cultural immersion through authentic materials, interactive activities, and multimedia resources.

By the end of the first semester, students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to read and write in Gurmukhi script at a basic level.
- Accurately produce and understand simple sentences in both written and spoken Punjabi.
- Recognize and apply key grammatical structures in context.
- Understand and respond to basic conversational topics related to daily life.
- Engage with authentic language materials, including short dialogues, songs, and simple stories.
- Build confidence in speaking through regular practice and interaction.
- By the end of the second semester, students will be able to:
- Participate in everyday conversations on topics such as home, family, school, health, work, and social or college life.
- Make basic inquiries and negotiate practical situations (e.g., asking for directions, discussing time, housing, and transportation).
- Navigate shopping scenarios by asking for items, discussing prices, and bargaining.
- Talk about common needs and topics such as food and drink, clothing, weather, colors, and physical descriptions.
- Discuss Punjabi village life, major festivals (e.g., weddings, Vaisakhi, Hola Mahalla, Diwali), and cultural practices.
- Engage in conversations about Punjabi diasporic life, particularly in the USA, Canada and UK.
- Read and comprehend simple authentic texts and answer questions or write short summaries about them.
- Demonstrate increasing fluency, accuracy, and cultural understanding using multimedia tools including Punjabi songs, short film clips, advertisements, poetry, and stories.

Overall, students will leave the course with the ability to engage in meaningful conversation with native Punjabi speakers on a wide range of basic topics and with the literacy skills to read and

write effectively in Gurmukhi script. The course encourages active use of Punjabi both in and outside the classroom to ensure sustained language acquisition and cultural appreciation.

How Credit Hours are Met by the Course

The credit standard for this course is met by an expectation of a total of 180 hours of student engagement with the course learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit), which include regularly scheduled instructor and student meeting times (e.g., 4 hours of synchronous course sessions daily, 5 sessions per week), reading, writing, listening, speaking, and out-of-class homework and project activities.

Regular and Substantive Student-Instructor Interaction

This course meets the regular and substantive student-instructor interaction requirement. By engaging students in teaching, learning and assessment through direct instruction, providing feedback on student work, providing information about course content, and facilitating discussion of course content on a weekly basis. Regular and substantive student-instructor interaction, as defined by the US Department of Education (Within 34 C.F.R. §600.2), is always a requirement of UW-Madison for-credit learning activities

Course Overview

Course Website and Digital Instructional Tools

Canvas Link: https://canvas.wisc.edu/

Required Textbook, Software and Other Course Materials

Course Materials: There is no required textbook for this course. We have created innovative materials from a broad array of multimedia resources, including online learning activities, YouTube videos, Punjabi app, worksheets and readings. Punjabi/English dictionaries will also be available on Canvas in digital form. All course reading and assignments will be available on Canvas. No book needs to be bought.

Optional Texts:

- Punjabi-English English-Punjabi Dictionary by Dr. K. K. Goswami
- Panjabi: A Comprehensive Grammar by Mangat Rai Bhardwaj (better suited for advanced learners)
- English-Panjabi Topic Dictionary by Surjit S. Kalra and J. S. Nagra
- The 100 Word Exercise Book: Panjabi by Mangat Bhardwaj and Harinder Kaur
- Panjabi Made Easy Book 1 by J. S. Nagra
- Panjabi Made Easy Book 2 by J. S. Nagra

• Panjabi Made Easy Book 3 by J. S. Nagra Homework and Other Assignments

Exams, Quizzes, Papers & Other Major Graded Work

Class Project: You need to complete two projects, the first in the fourth week of the program, and the second in the last week. The details will be provided.

Quizzes: There will be 12 module quizzes, every Friday except the fourth and eighth week. You need to review everything to perform well. The quizzes would cover everything you learn during the previous and the current weeks.

Final Exam: The final exam will be held on the last day of the semester (end of the fourth and eighth week).

Note: Final grades will not be curved.

Weekly Schedule

First semester starts on June 16, 2025 and ends on July 11, 2025

Second semester starts on July 14, 2025 and ends on August 8, 2025

*Important dates:

● Monday 6/16, 9 am, First class online

● Friday 7/4, no class

● Week 8 practice exams

● Quiz Dates: Please see Canvas for detailed quiz dates and due dates.

● First Semester Final Project: July 10 Thursday

● First Semester Final Exam: July 11 Friday

● Second Semester Final Project: August 6 Wednesday

● Second Semester Final Exam: August 8 Friday

Grading

Grade scale:

A 90-100%

AB 87-89%

B 80-86%

BC 77-79%

C 70-76%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

Grading Calculation (per semester):

Attendance and Participation 20%

Reading Exercises 5%

Listening Video Quizzes 5%

Speaking Videos 10%

Short Writing Tasks 10%

Quizzes (Module quizzes) 20%

Final exam 30%

Weekly Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Module	**Week**	**Lesson Topics**
1: INTRODUCTION & GREETINGS	**1 (w/c 16th June)**	**Introduction to the Gurmukhi Alphabet & Greetings, Gurmukhi Alphabet & Punjabi Phonetics, Making Punjabi Words, Reading Skills Review & Quiz**
2: FAMILY **3: HOME**	**2 (w/c 23rd June)**	**The Verb "To Be," Basic Sentence Structure & Asking Questions, Noun & Adjective Agreement Review & Quiz,** **Verb Conjugations, Postpositions & Obliques**
4: HEALTH	**3 (w/c 30th June)**	**Negation & Talking about Health & Emotions, Review & Quiz**

5: FOOD & THE MARKET		**To Need & to Want, Asking and Refusing Politely** **Talking about Preferences**
6: FAITH & FESTIVALS **7: CLOTHES & FASHION**	**4 (w/c 7th July)**	**Past & Perfect Tenses** **Transitive & Intransitive Verbs,** **Future Tense** **Conveying Similarities & Comparisons Review & Quiz**
8: DAILY ROUTINES & HOBBIES **9: COLLEGE LIFE: SOCIAL JUSTICE & SEVA**	**5 (w/c 14th July)**	**Time Expressions & Daily Schedules** **Expressing Compulsion** **The Subjunctive and If/Then Clauses Review & Quiz**
10: MUSIC & SPORTS **11: PUNJAB: LAND OF FIVE RIVERS**	**6 (w/c 21st July)**	**Expressions with ਮਾਰਨਾ and other verbs** **Being able to do something and talking about time and place** **Weather Expressions Review & Quiz**
12: NAVIGATING THE CITY	**7 (w/c 28th July)**	**Interjections & Exclamations The Future Perfect Tense Relative/Correlative Clauses** **Navigating the City Review & Quiz**
CAPSTONE MODULE: FINAL PROJECT	**8 (w/c 4th August)**	**Group Projects: Storytelling** **Final Presentations**

Note: There will be no class on July 4th.

WISLI Program Policies

WISLI Attendance Policy

Students may miss one class per semester without penalty; a second absence can result in a full grade deduction; three or more absences may lead to an additional grade reduction or automatic failure.

WISLI Tardiness Policy

Given the intensive nature of the summer language classes, it is imperative to be ready to join class on time for both 2-hour sessions. To ensure a productive learning environment for all participants, WISLI defines tardiness as the following:

Tardiness: arriving more than 5 minutes late to a class session.

Excessive tardiness: arriving more than 10 minutes late to any session.

Tardiness in excess of 30 minutes will be considered an absence for the 2-hour session. Repeated tardiness:

Three instances of tardiness will result in a warning. A fourth instance of tardiness will require a meeting with an Academic Director.

Three instances of excessive tardiness (arriving more than 10 minutes late but less than 30) will be counted as one absence for the 2 hours.

Repeated tardiness in excess of 30 minutes will then be subject to the WISLI absence policy. Continued tardiness or excessive tardiness may result in further penalty or dismissal.

WISLI understands that unforeseen circumstances can occur. Please communicate any tardiness or absences to the course instructor as soon as possible.

WISLI Technology Policy

There are many helpful online tools available to language learners, and it is expected that these tools are used responsibly and in alignment with UW-Madison expectations of academic integrity and guidelines on generative artificial intelligence. Do not use translation software such as Google Translate or AI tools such as Microsoft Copilot unless your instructor directs you to use these tools for assignments or projects. And in these instances, these types of tools are only to be used in the manner permitted by the instructor. Ask your instructor for clarification if you have any questions about what is allowed.

UW-Madison Academic Policies and Statements

Academic Calendar & Religious Observations. View the full academic calendar in addition to information about religious and election day observances. Students are responsible for notifying instructors within the first two weeks of classes about any need for flexibility due to religious observances.

Establishment of the academic calendar for the University of Wisconsin–Madison falls within the authority of the faculty as set forth in Faculty Policies and Procedures. Construction of the academic calendar is subject to various rules and laws prescribed by the Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate, State of Wisconsin and the federal government. Find additional dates and deadlines for students on the Office of the Registrar website.

Academic Integrity. By virtue of enrollment, each student agrees to uphold the high academic standards of the University of Wisconsin–Madison; academic misconduct is behavior that negatively impacts the integrity of the institution. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration and helping others commit these previously listed acts are examples of misconduct which may result in disciplinary action. Examples of disciplinary sanctions include, but are not limited to, failure on the assignment/course, written reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The University of Wisconsin–Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12) and UW–Madison policy (UW-855) require the university to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities to access and participate in its academic programs and educational services. Faculty and students share responsibility in the accommodation process. Students are expected to inform faculty of their need for instructional accommodations during the beginning of the semester, or as soon as possible after being approved for accommodations. Faculty will work either directly with the student or in coordination with the McBurney Disability Resource Center to provide reasonable instructional and course-related accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.

Course Evaluations. Students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison have the opportunity to evaluate their learning experiences and the courses they are enrolled in through course evaluations. Many instructors use a digital course evaluation tool to collect feedback from students. Students typically receive notifications two weeks prior to the end of the semester requesting that they complete course evaluations. Student participation is an integral component of course development, and confidential feedback is important. UW–Madison strongly encourages student participation in course evaluations.

Diversity & Inclusion. Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for the University of Wisconsin–Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals. UW–Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.

Mental Health and Well-Being. Students often experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and personal well-being. These may include mental health concerns, substance misuse, sexual or relationship violence, family circumstances, campus climate, financial matters, among others.
UW–Madison students are encouraged to learn about and utilize the university's mental health services and/or other resources as needed. Student can visit uhs.wisc.edu or call University Health Services at (608) 265-5600 to learn more.

Privacy of Student Records & Use of Audio Recorded Lectures. Lecture materials and recordings for this course are protected intellectual property at UW–Madison. Students enrolled in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in the course. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, students are not authorized to record lectures without permission unless they are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability who has an approved accommodation that includes recording. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or have lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities, with the exception

of sharing copies of personal notes as a notetaker through the McBurney Disability Resource Center. Students are otherwise prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct. View more information about FERPA.

Students' Rules, Rights & Responsibilities. View more information about student rules, rights and responsibilities such as student privacy rights, sharing of academic record information, academic integrity and grievances.

Teaching and Learning Data Transparency. The privacy and security of faculty, staff and students' personal information is a top priority for UW–Madison. The university carefully reviews and vets all campus-supported digital tools used for teaching and learning, including those that support data empowered educational practices and proctoring. View more information about teaching and learning data transparency at UW–Madison.

WEEK 1 SCHEDULE

Day 1 June 16 Monday	HW(Page number, Online Resources), Due Date	Learning Outcome
-Introductions, discussion on syllabus- course policies, assessments, course expectations - Discussion on challenges of language learning, strategies for success, learning style, collaborative learning; - Greetings & goodbye phrases - Introducing yourself - Verbs: [to be], to study, to live/to stay, what, where, which - Vocabulary: name, country, city, birth, subject, - Grammar: Personal Pronoun - Question Word, Classroom vocabulary, Classroom expressions, expressions for asking questions, clarifications, requesting to take a break, repeat a statement etc.] - Scripts & Sounds: Vowel first 15 letters of Gurmukhi ਉ, ਅ, ਏ, ਸ, ਹ, ਕ, ਖ, ਗ, ਘ, ਙ, ਚ, ਛ, ਜ, ਝ, ਞ Captivate Lecture 1, slides 1 to 18	Script writing exercise 1 -Greetings Phrases -Introduce Yourself (See Canvas for homework) Due: June 17	Students will be able to greet in Punjabi and be able to identify the first 15 letters of Gurmukhi

Day 2 June 17 Tuesday	HW and due date	Learning Outcomes

Greetings: Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and general. Role-play: Introductions. Scenario: Meeting at a party, greeting each other, ask and respond to each other's question about name, birthplace, profession etc. - Practicing scripts- dictation, board work, alphabet game. - Possessive pronoun - Question Word: whose- Possessive case, Yes/No Question, What, who, which, Classroom expression practice -Scripts & Sounds: practice 15 more letters of Gurmukhi script	30 letters of Gurmukhi Script writing exercise 2 -Greetings Phrases -Introduce Yourself (See Canvas for homework) Due: June 18	They will be greeted with diverse Punjabi greetings and will be able to say and write 30 Gurmukhi letters

Day 3 June 18 Wednesday	HW and due date	Learning Outcomes
Gurmukhi Scripts & Sounds: practice 11 more letters of Gurmukhi script , Practice from the captivate lecture slide, Making Punjabi Words, working alphabetic and making Punjabi words and Punjabi Cultural Videos. Making Punjabi Words with mukta, kanna, Sihari and . Making Punjabi Words with Bihari	41 letters of Gurmukhi Script writing exercise 3 -Making Punjabi words (See Canvas for homework) Due: June 19	Will learn all the 41 Gurmukhi letters how to write, read and pronounce. They will be able to write simple Punjabi word with mukam kanna, sihari and bihari diacritics
Day 4 June 19 Thursday	HW and due date	Learning Outcomes
Gurmukhi Scripts & Sounds: practice all 41 letters of Gurmukhi script, making Punjabi words with unkar- ਰੁਕ Stop ਸ਼ੁਭ Auspicious ਗੁਣ Quality ਤੁਕ Quote ਮੁਖ Mouth ਸੁਚ Switch, dulainkerh words- ਊਠ Camel ਬੂਟ, ਗਊ Cow ਬਹੂ Daughter in law ਲਹੂ Blood, lava words- ਦੇਰ Delay ਮੇਲ To meet ਸੇਬ Apple ਜੇਬ Pocket ਬੇਰ Fruit ਤੇਲ Oil, dulava, horha words - ਗੋਲ Round ਚੋਰ Thief ਲਭੋ To find ਕਢੋ To pick up ਜਲੋ Burn, kanorha words- ਕੌਰ Kaur ਮੌਤ Death ਦੌੜ To run ਚੌਰ Whisk ਮੌਜ Enjoyment etc., Making Punjabi Words Activity	41 letters of Gurmukhi Script writing exercise 4 -Making Punjabi words (See Canvas for homework) Due: June 20	Students will be able to use and make words with unkar, dulainker, lava, dulavan words in Punjabi, except mukam kanna, sihari, and bihari

Day 5 June 20 Friday	HW and due date	Learning Outcomes

Revise all the Gurmukhi letters & Sounds: practice all 41 letters, making Punjabi words with Tippi - ਸੰਤ Saint ਦੰਦ Teeth ਪੰਜ Five ਕੰਨ Ear ਹੰਟ Hunt ਖੰਡ Sugar and Bindi - ਬਾਂਸ Bamboo ਡਾਂਸ Dance ਸਾਂਗ Copying ਮਾਂਵਾਂ Mothers ਬਾਰਾਂ Twelve, Read and practice the Muharni chart (Punjabi phonetics) Practice repeating the consonants in combination with all the vowels. Practice speaking all the Punjabi greetings	Practice saying, writing all the 41 letters of Gurmukhi Script and Muharni reading and writing exercise 5-Making Punjabi words (See Canvas for homework) Due: June 21	Students will be able to write their name and family name in Gurmukhi and create words using all the vowel diacritics. Will be able to read, write, and form simple sentences in Punjabi.