

ADVANCED URDU (ASIANLANG 517 & 518) Summer 2026

Institution Name: University of Wisconsin–Madison

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

Course Designations and Attributes:

Foreign Language, 5th & 6th Semester Language Course

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Course Description:

The main objective for the Intensive Advanced Urdu course sequence is enabling students to develop proficiency in Urdu in each of distinct language skills, namely, speaking, reading, writing, listening, and knowledge of systematic Urdu grammar. The course is designed in such a way to enable students to develop their abilities with each of these skills in a parallel manner. There will be sustained emphasis on the systematic development of vocabulary, study of Urdu grammar, especially complex sentence formations. At the end of the course students will be able to comprehend and talk about social and abstract issues. Students will also be able to read and appreciate, to some extent, Urdu literature major genres such as short stories, news items, articles of general interest, ghazal, nazam and dohe etc. During the course the student will be introduced to some Urdu literary figures such as Sa'adat Hasan Manto, Patras Bukhari, Ghalib, Mohammad Iqbal, Faiz Ahmad Faiz etc.

The primary text is selected from different literary sources for reading and listening. It includes Urdu literary books, Urdu newspaper, web, magazine, comics/cartoons etc. and for listening, materials will be drawn from film songs and scenes, T.V serial clips, ghazal, qawwali etc. Related material will be made available on the course canvas.

During the course students will also learn about South Asian society in general including the culture and etiquette of the Urdu speaking community in Pakistan, India and abroad.

Requisites: All the students must have completed at least two years of academic Urdu language study in any academic American university/institutions or in study abroad program. A placement

test will be conducted by the instructor on the first day of the semester in all four skills, reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Meeting Time and Location: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (CDT), [Join URL:

[Redacted]

Instructional Modality: Synchronous Online

Instructor Contact Info: Dr. Jameel Ahmad

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

[Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Develop a functional vocabulary of approx. 3,000 words and phrases.

Indulge in somewhat complex conversations, text analyses, and discussions on a range of topics in target language.

3. Indulge in situations posing problems and be able to handle it by engaging in negotiations to solve the problem at hand.

4. Write essays, letters, passages, and use the dictionaries comprehensively.

5. Present comprehensive and accurate summaries of various target language texts including movies, videos, etc.

6. Speak in target language during the class, discussions, presentations etc.

7. Listen to target language songs, news, and other programs available online and understand most of the content with accuracy.

8. Understand the core theme of a discussion and connect them to previous discussions on a related topic.

9. Read the target language script fluently with appropriate pronunciations, grammar, spellings, punctuations, borrowed sounds and comfort level.
10. Read longer and more complex texts written in target language script, such as newspaper articles.
11. Write thoughts and feelings in a journal.
12. Write essays and join paragraphs on various familiar topics.

At the end of the course Advanced low or Advanced mid-level of proficiency level is expected.

How Credit Hours are Met by the Course

The credit standard for each of the 4-credit courses is met by requiring at least **180 total hours of student engagement** with course learning activities, consistent with the UW–Madison standard of **at least 45 hours of learning activities per credit**. These learning activities include scheduled instructor-student meeting times as well as asynchronous reading, writing, listening, speaking, preparation, homework, projects, studying, and other course-related activities. **Required co-curricular programming** will take place on Fridays, which includes lectures, language practice, cultural sessions, and other structured activities designed to support and extend course learning.

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

The Advance Urdu course includes advancing all four skills with variety of activities such as reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will be introduced to Urdu literary, cultural and historical aspects as well. Grammar drills will be for advanced and complex sentence structures. Class will be conducted in target language Urdu. If you don't understand some parts, please don't hesitate to ask for clarification.

First part (before the break) will focus on Reading and comprehension

Second part (after the break) will focus on Speaking and Listening activities

- Join the classes on time, prepare the reading in advance, ask questions,
- Don't hesitate to make mistake/s that way I know what we need to practice more
- Repetition, repetition, repetition and practice of vocabulary/phrases, complex construction learned
- Keep a separate diary/stack of flashcard to note new words/phrases learned
- Listen to Urdu podcast/youtube channels related to your interest and Coke studio
- Actively participate in class activities. Explore something new everyday
- Every class will start with a brief (10-15 min.) review of previous material and summary of the day's activities

Course Website and Digital Instructional Tools

- Link to institute website: <https://wisli.wisc.edu/sasli/>
- Link to Canvas page: [REDACTED]
- Zoom link for class: [REDACTED]

Required Textbook, Software, and Other Course Materials

Course Materials

1. Introductory Urdu Volume 2 by C.M. Naim
2. Urdu Newspaper Reader: Prepared by Jameel Ahmad
3. Urdu Ghazal Reader: Prepared by Jameel Ahmad
4. Select Readings from Urdu Namah by Syed Akbar Hyder
5. Readings in Literary Urdu Prose: Gopi Chand Narang
6. Urdu: An Essential Grammar by Ruth Laila Schmidt
7. Advanced Urdu Grammar: Translated (Usha Jain: Advanced Hindi Grammar)
8. Standard Urdu to English and English to Urdu Dictionaries (To be discussed in Class)

All reading, listening and other additional text will be suggested and shared in pdf and other electronic formats. 'The Files' section on course canvas.

Online Dictionaries:

Rekhta: <https://www.rekhta.org/urdudictionary?wref=rweb>Links to an external site.

John T. Platts: <https://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/platts/>Links to an external site.

Urdu Fonts Download: <https://cle.org.pk/software/localization.htm>

Homework and Other Assignments

Note: each day of class (Monday to Thursday) will have 10-15 min dictation

Monday: Various genre of Prose (Rapid reading and comprehension)

Tuesday: Various genre of Prose continues

Wednesday: Poetry, Poets and Poetics

Thursday: Advanced and challenging readings such as news, humor, criticism etc.

Friday: First part of the class: Class test, oral presentation and group projects.

Second part: SASLI/WISLI group activities

Exams, Quizzes, Papers, and Other Major Graded Work

- Three written Homework each week. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (Not on days of Exams on Friday)
- Quizzes on Tuesdays each week and dictation 2-3 each week
- Written HW, Tests and Quizzes will be uploaded on canvas. Some assignments may have to be shared on other platforms such as google drive.
- Late HW will be graded down and missed HW will be graded zero
- No make up dictation or quiz

Please check the COURSE CANVAS daily for updated assignments details and due dates.

General Guidelines for Exam Proctoring

The tests and quizzes will be conducted on zoom with camera on all the time.

Course Schedule/Calendar

Include a course calendar/schedule that outlines the coursework and deadlines to help students plan their time and know what to expect. Demonstrate opportunities for instructor-student interaction where appropriate.

Required co-curricular Friday programming is as follows:

Friday, June 19	11:00 am	Global Professionals Panel Sessions
Friday, June 26	11:00 am	Language Practice Tables
Friday, July 3	TBD	WISLI Research Symposium
Friday, July 10	8:30 am	Final Exams
Friday, July 17	–	Asynchronous Review/Study Day
Friday, July 24	11:00 am	Language Practice Tables
Friday, July 31	11:00 am	Intercultural Learning Session
Friday, August 7	8:30 am	Final Exams

Grading

The final grade for Advanced Urdu is based on the following factors:

1. Written homework 15%
2. Oral homework assignments 10%
3. Dictations 10 %
4. Listening 10%
5. Class tests and Quizzes 10%
6. Final comprehensive examination 10%
7. Project presentations 10%
8. Drills, attendance, class participation 15%

Your two lowest homework grades and the (one) lowest dictation score will be forgiven. There is no midterm examination.

Neatness counts. So please submit your assignment in nice and clean handwriting or clear type.

GRADING SCALE:

92-100	A
89-91	AB
83-88	B
80-82	BC
71-79	C
65-70	D
0-64	F

Written homework, quizzes, dictation will be graded on 10 points scale

Exams will be graded on 50 points

Final Exam will be graded on 100 points

Projects will be graded on scale of 50 points

Attendance and participation will be graded cumulative

WISLI Program Policies

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.

Tardiness Policy

Tardiness is defined as arriving more than 5 minutes late to the start of class as well as the time immediately following scheduled breaks. **Excessive tardiness** is arriving more than 10 minutes late to class. Tardiness in excess of 30 minutes will be considered a half- or full-day absence. In instances of 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 a half-day absence.
- **Repeated tardiness in excess of 30 minutes** will 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 notify the course instructor of any tardiness or absences as soon as possible.

WISLI Technology Policy

There are many helpful online tools available to language learners, and these tools should be used responsibly and in alignment with UW-Madison expectations of [academic integrity](#) and guidelines on [generative artificial intelligence](#). Do not use translation software or AI tools unless instructed to use these tools for assignments or projects. Ask for clarification if you have any questions about what is allowed.

“You are welcome to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (such as Copilot, Gemini, etc.) in this class as they support the learning objectives of this course. Please be aware you are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (i.e. ensure your professor has allowed you to publicly post course content such as assignment or assessment prompts and that the AI generated results do not contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be documented and cited to conform to this course’s expectations.”

How to be transparent when using generative AI:

- In the text of your work or in an appendix, **describe how you have used generative AI** (e.g., for translation, editing for grammar, sources for a literature review, establishing research methods, data analysis, survey creation, etc.)
- In the text of your work or in an appendix, **include the prompt(s) used and the full responses from generative AI**

UW-Madison Academic Policies and Statements

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- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Course Evaluations](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusion](#)
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- [Privacy of Student Records and the Use of Audio Recorded Lectures](#)
- [Remote Proctoring with Honorlock \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Students' Rules, Rights and Responsibilities](#)
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