



Intermediate Urdu (ASIALANG 417-427)

Institution Name: University of Wisconsin–Madison

Credits: 8

Course Designations and Attributes: General Education: Third and Fourth-semester language courses.

Course Description: Welcome to the South Asia Summer Language Institute and to the Intermediate Urdu Class!

Urdu is one of the major languages of the South Asian subcontinent. It is the national language and lingua franca of Pakistan, and one of the officially recognized languages in India (recognized in several Indian states and by the Indian constitution). Urdu is spoken as a first language by nearly 70 million people and as a second language by more than 100 million, primarily in Pakistan and India, with significant speech communities around the world.

Urdu and Hindi share a common grammar and basic vocabulary, especially in everyday spoken form. If you speak one, you can understand and communicate well in the other, especially in everyday conversation. Learning Urdu opens doors to enjoying Urdu poetry, Bollywood films, qawwalis (Sufi devotional music), ghazals, and South Asian literature in their original form. Urdu is among the most important literary and cultural languages of Asia, with a rich literary tradition written in both the modern standard language and earlier dialects. In its official style, Urdu is written in a modified form of the Perso-Arabic script, specifically in the Nastaliq calligraphic style, renowned for its flowing and artistic form.

The Intermediate Urdu course builds upon students' foundational skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing developed in the first year of study. Students will expand their vocabulary, strengthen grammatical accuracy, and deepen cultural understanding through immersive and communicative activities.

In this intensive 8-week program, students engage in daily instruction focused on real-world themes such as culture, society, media, and everyday life. While strong emphasis is placed on oral communication (listening and speaking), reading and writing skills are equally developed to reinforce linguistic competence.

Students will develop the ability to:

- participate in conversations with increasing fluency
- interpret authentic texts and media
- express ideas across present, past, and future contexts
- engage meaningfully with Urdu-speaking communities

Requisites: One year or equivalent University level Urdu instruction or proficiency.

Meeting Time and Location:

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (CDT) synchronous. With one hour break in between.

Instructional Modality: online via zoom

Instructor Contact Info:

Faiza Saleem Ph.D.

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 1:30-2:30 pm CST or by appointment.

Course Learning Outcomes

The goal of this course is to build upon your existing knowledge of the Urdu language and help you reach the **Intermediate High and/or Advanced Low** proficiency level, as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), across all four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Using a communicative, proficiency-oriented approach, the course emphasizes active engagement with Modern Standard Urdu through maximum exposure to contemporary genres such as short stories, essays, dialogues, news media, poetry, and digital content. Students will listen, speak, read, and write in Urdu within real life and culturally relevant contexts, enhancing their ability to communicate spontaneously and appropriately in a variety of everyday and academic situations. The course also aims to strengthen advanced cultural and communicative competence, with a special focus on independent writing and interpersonal exchanges. Emphasis will be placed on interpersonal communication, presentational speaking, interpretive reading, interpretive listening, and presentational writing. Language development and assessment will take place through a variety of thematic lessons and performance-based tasks designed to promote fluency, accuracy, and cultural sensitivity.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and interpret spoken and written Urdu related to everyday life, social situations, and cultural topics.
- can read and understand short narratives, descriptions, and simple informational texts such as blog posts, instructions, simple recipes, signs, short stories, and short articles.
- Engage in spontaneous conversations on familiar and some unfamiliar topics using connected sentences and paragraph length speech
- Initiate, sustain, and close conversations on familiar topics (e.g., family, food, hobbies, school life) and some unfamiliar ones (e.g., public events, basic current affairs) with appropriate language
- Participate in discussions, ask and answer questions, and narrate or describe events across major time frames (past, present, and future).
- Deliver structured oral presentations and compose written texts such as stories, descriptions, reflections, and opinions.
- Apply an expanded vocabulary and demonstrate increasing grammatical accuracy and language control.
- Exhibit awareness of cultural norms, values, and practices of Urdu speaking communities and respond appropriately in cross-cultural interactions.

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

This intermediate Urdu course is conducted online and meets five days a week. It is designed to further develop your proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through an engaging, interactive, and student-centered approach. Instructional strategies include live Zoom sessions, guided and independent reading, interactive activities, breakout room discussions, weekly presentations, information gap tasks, collaborative projects, worksheets, quizzes, multimedia content, reflection assignments, and regular feedback from the instructor.

As an intermediate learner, you are expected to actively participate in all live sessions and complete assignments on time. Since language learning is cumulative, each new lesson builds upon the previous one, therefore consistent attendance and steady effort are essential for success. In addition to class time, you will be required to work independently to review vocabulary, practice grammatical structures, prepare for presentations, and engage with authentic Urdu materials such as short stories, news clips, and conversations.

Learning a language in an online environment requires discipline, time management, and motivation. If you find yourself falling behind or facing challenges with the material or technology, please reach out to the instructor promptly. I am here to support you throughout the course and help you reach your proficiency goals in Urdu.

Website and Digital Instructional Tools

- Link to institute website

<https://wisli.wisc.edu/sasli/>

- Link to Canvas page

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Zoom link for class:

[REDACTED]

Note: Daily course activities, assignments, announcements will be posted/updated on Canvas course website. It is strongly suggested that students explore and become familiar not only with Canvas' site navigation but with content and resources available for the course. Campus provides students with technology guidelines and recommendations for instruction. You are advised to make an account on Perusal

Required Textbook, Software & Other Course Material

- Let's Study Urdu by Ali Asani and Syed Akbar Hyder
- Urdu: An Essential Grammar by Ruth Laila Schmidt (recommended)

Recommended Reference Dictionaries (Hard Copy)

- Oxford English-Urdu Dictionary by Shanul Haq Haqee
- Ferozsons Urdu-English Dictionary
- Feroz ul Lughat Urdu to Urdu Dictionary

Online Dictionaries and other resources

- <http://udb.gov.pk/index.php> (Urdu to Urdu online Dictionary)
- <https://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/platts/> A Dictionary of Urdu, Classical Hindi, and English by John T. Platts
- <https://rekhtadictionary.com/?lang=ur> (Urdu to English dictionary by Rekhta)
- <https://www.rekhta.org> (Urdu Literature)
- <https://www.urdupoint.com/dictionary/urdu-to-english.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@bbcurdu/videos>
- <https://quizlet.com/join/923z33EA3?i=kwx6&x=1bqt>
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Urdu Newspapers and Magazines:

<https://www.bbc.com/urdu>

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper>

<https://jang.com.pk/>

<https://www.express.com.pk/>

<https://akhbar-e-jehan.com/>

Urdu Dramas/Films/Documentaries

A variety of Urdu dramas, films, short films, and serials are available on YouTube, SeePrime, and Netflix. Check with your instructor for an exclusive recommendation list.

Note on Script:

1. It is expected that all students can easily read and write the Urdu script. If you have a challenge in this area, please contact the instructors.
2. For some assignments you will write by hand, and for others you will be required to type in Urdu; details will be shared in class for students who need guidance in learning how to type in Urdu.
3. Jameel Noori Nastaleeq or Noto Nastaliq Urdu (Recommended font for typing).
<https://www.cle.org.pk/software/localization.html>

Exams, Quizzes, Papers & Other Major Graded Work

Homework & Other Assignments You will be assigned homework daily and are expected to submit it on time on the agreed date. Your daily homework will mainly be the next day's preparation and any relevant completion and submission e.g drama reviews/ virtual tour report, journal, speaking tasks etc. Different assignments are designed to emphasize different skills. Your work is factored into planning for future classes; therefore, timely completion of all assigned homework will allow instructors to more accurately gauge student progress and effectively utilize class time. Your homework assignments must be turned in on time; late submission or failure to submit will adversely affect your grade. Your assignments should be submitted through **Canvas**. Each homework will be marked out of 5 points.

Weekly Presentation: Each week you will be required to complete a mini project/presentation under the week's theme. You will work on the topic throughout the week to write a brief report on it in Urdu and will present it in the class. After the presentation other students and your teacher will ask one or two questions about the presentation. You are required to submit written presentation as well. This exercise will not only accelerate natural speaking flow and confidence but also help you in handling and answering questions in Urdu. The purpose of writing these brief essays is to enhance your writing capability and organize your thought process in Urdu. You are not expected to write in your journals fully without errors, and free expression is encouraged. Each presentation will be marked out of 10 points. Some pointers regarding written presentation:

- Write date & day of the week on top of each entry in Urdu.
- Keep double line spacing for error correction.
- Do not be afraid to make mistakes.
- Three page is the minimum but write more if you want to.
- Should be written by hand, not typed.

Quizzes: There will be weekly quizzes (6 in total), which will review on topics and skills covered in the previous week, or a speaking section where you will be assessed on your oral proficiency. Each quiz will be marked out of 50 points. These quizzes can include vocabulary dictation, comprehension questions, grammar, listening and transcribing. Spelling counts!

Attendance: The keys to learning language are practice and contact hours. See the attendance policy for further details.

Participation: You are expected to attend all classes and actively participate in discussion and drills, especially given the intensive nature of this course and the small class size. Your participation grade also includes your prep work at home (you will be asked to read ahead in the book to prepare for class, or at times research certain topics and bring that information to class). You will be given twenty points per week (4 per day).

Final Project: Instead of an exam we will have a final project. You will be required to submit a final project in Urdu on any topic of your interest and give presentation on your project. Final project can be submitted handwritten, or typed

and must be an original and well-prepared work. You are encouraged to start thinking and discussing your projects with your instructor before 4th week and submit a two-page proposal by the end of week 4 that will count towards first semester final grades. You will be working on it in the second semester and are required to submit the first draft in week 6.

Details will be discussed in the class

Grading

Quizzes	20%
Homework	15%
Presentations	20%
Attendance	10%
Class Participation	15%
Final Project	20%

Grading Scale

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

- This class follows a fixed grading scale, and the final grades are not curved.

Grading and Evaluation: Assignments are graded using a point system based on:

- **Completion** (on-time submission)
- **Accuracy and effort**
- **Participation in communicative tasks** Some assignments may also include **peer interaction or feedback activities**.

Submission Guidelines:

- All assignments must be submitted on **Canvas** by the specified deadlines.
- Late or missing work may negatively affect your grade.
- Detailed instructions, due dates, and grading criteria will be clearly listed for each assignment on Canvas.

Feedback: You will receive feedback through comments on Canvas. You are encouraged to review this feedback carefully and discuss it with your instructor during office hours.

Being consistent, organized, and timely with your work will help you succeed and make the most of your learning experience in this course.

Use of Materials and Devices

- Unless otherwise stated:
 - Exams and quizzes are **closed book and closed notes**
 - Use of unauthorized electronic devices, online tools, or external assistance is not permitted
- Any variation (e.g., open-note quiz or use of specific tools) will be clearly announced in advance.

Proctoring

- In line with program guidance, formal proctoring software is **not required**.
- Assessments will be completed during scheduled class time with the instructor present on Zoom

Variety of Assessments

Students will have **multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning**, rather than relying on a single high-stakes exam. These include:

- Weekly homework and preparation tasks
- Quizzes
- Two major projects
- Oral presentations and role-plays
- Final exam (including speaking component)

Group Work

- For group projects:
 - Clear expectations and roles will be provided
 - A shared grading rubric will be used
 - Individual contributions may be assessed to ensure fairness and accountability

Make-up and Late Work Policy

- **Late assignments** may receive reduced credit unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor
- **Make-up quizzes or exams** will only be allowed in cases of documented, legitimate circumstances and must be arranged in advance when possible
- Students are responsible for communicating promptly with the instructor regarding any conflicts

Transparency and Communication

All assignment details, grading criteria, and deadlines will be clearly posted on **Canvas**, and students are encouraged to review them regularly. Timely communication and consistent participation will help ensure success in the course.

General Guidelines for Exam Proctoring

This course will not utilize a formal proctoring service. Quizzes and exams will be completed during scheduled class time on Zoom with the instructor present. Students are expected to follow all academic integrity guidelines during assessments.

Course Schedule/Calendar

Weekly Quizzes- Every Friday

Semester 1- **June- 19th, 26th & July 3rd**

Semester 2 – **July – 17th, 24th & 31st**

Final Project

Semester 1 Proposal Submission: **Week 4- Friday, July 10th**

Semester 2 First draft: Week 6- Friday, July 24th

Semester 2 Final draft: **Week 8- Thursday, August 6th**

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 Project Proposal Presentation and submission
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 Project Presentation and Submission

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. In these instances, these tools are to be used only in the manner permitted by the instructor. Ask for clarification if you have any questions about what is allowed.

UW-Madison Academic Policies and Statements

- [Academic Calendar and Religious Observances](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Course Evaluations](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Student Health, Well-Being & Basic Needs](#)
- [Privacy of Student Records and the Use of Audio Recorded Lectures](#)
- [Remote Proctoring with Honorlock \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Students' Rules, Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Teaching & Learning Data Transparency](#)
- **First Two Weeks' Plan**

Week 1 (June 15-19) Theme: Food

Date & Time	Lesson Topic, Skills and Activities	Assignment & Deadline	Learning Outcome
Day 1 June 15, 2026 8:30 am	Welcome/Introduction and Introduction to the course. Syllabus overview Weekly theme and vocab Weekly Project Rubric Break 10:30- 11:30 am CST Placement test	Go through the syllabus thoroughly and bring in any concerns. Go through vocab and write a short paragraph using at least any 10 words from the vocab list. Read, record and upload. Start working on Project 1 (Before next class).	Get familiar with syllabus, course and teacher Building new vocab, and using it in a meaningful paragraph. Introducing classmates and describing their plans, likes, dislikes, using present past and future time frames. Sharing grammar aspects that are most challenging to them.

Day 2 June 16, 2026	Prose Bhook/ recipe reading Ginti 1-25 Break 10:30- 11:30 am CST Virtual Tour (Lahore) Grammar Topics Discussions	Write about Lahore, famous places and write about any famous street food. Watch the video and write a simple recipe Prep for dictation (Before next class)	Understand the main idea and key details of a familiar reading passage. Describe cultural products and practices associated with Lahore. Know about cultural aspects of Lahore, esp food
Day 3 June 17, 2026	Poetry Introduction Terminologies Break 10:30- 11:30 am CST Dictation Virtual tour review	Listen to the song and write the lyrics till 2:25 memorize your favorite sher record and upload to Canvas (Before next class)	Identify common poetic terms and interpret the meaning of simple Urdu poetry. be able to describe a city, its landmarks, and cultural elements using appropriate vocabulary and descriptive structures
Day 4 June 18, 2026	Newspaper reading MAK BARKAR Break 10:30- 11:30 am CST grammar review	Find 5 Urdu news headlines and practice speed reading	Read, interpret and summarize formal language, familiar with high register.
Day 5 June 19, 2026	Quiz language game Drama Break 10:30- 11:30 am CST	Prepare for the Presentation for Monday Read and record it and upload the audio on canvas Watch drama episode choose your fav dialogue, imitate, record and upload. (Before next class)	Contextual listening, Understand the main idea and supporting details of an authentic drama clip Review of the week Engage in culturally authentic games and tradition using spontaneous language in a fun and low stressed way.

Week 2 (June 22-26) Theme: Sports

Date & Time	Lesson Topic, Skills and Activities	Assignment & Deadline	Learning Outcome

Day 1 June 22, 2026	Weekly journal. Mini Project Presentation Break 10:30-11:30 am CST Next week project Rubric Drama Review and reflection questions	Start working on Project 2 Go through vocab and write a short paragraph using at least any 10 words from the vocab list. Read, record and upload! Prep for the next Class (Before next class)	Research and prepare a written project on a culturally relevant topic. Deliver organized oral presentation using appropriate vocab, grammar and pronunciation. Use of connecting and transition words in connected speech. Asking and answering questions about the topic. Appropriate tone, pace and clarity.
Day 2 June 23, 2026	Prose (dangal) ginti 1-20 Break 10:30-11:30 am CST Virtual Tour (karachi) Grammar: Oblique Case	Watch Video Write about karachi, famous places and any famous street food, reflections on sports video record Ginti 1-20 and upload Prep for the next class Prep for Dictation (Before next class)	Accelerate reading speed and comprehension. Describe cultural products and practices associated with Karachi. Know about cultural aspects of Karachi, esp sports
Day 3 June 24, 2026	Poetry (Bazeecha e atfal) Terminologies Break 10:30-11:30 am CST Dictation Virtual tour review	Memorize your fav sher from the poetry class, record and upload. Prep for the next Class (Before next class)	Get familiar with Urdu poetry and about Iqbal Practice poetry recital, improved pronunciation and tone. be able to demonstrate about Karachi, its landmarks, and cultural elements using appropriate vocabulary and descriptive structures
Day 4 June 25, 2026	Your fav Sher recitation Newspaper reading Break 10:30-11:30 am CST Grammar review LSU chapter 3 Noun Gender and Plural	Find 5 Urdu news headlines and practice speed reading Prep for the Quiz (Before next class)	Getting familiar with formal language, and reading newspaper headlines. Review and use of gender and plural nouns.

Day 5 June 26, 2026	Quiz Language game Drama Bhaag Amna Bhaag Break 10:30-11:30	Prepare for the Project Presentation for Monday. Read and record it and upload the audio on canvas Watch Drama full episode Choose your fav dialogue. imitate, record and upload. (Before next class)	Comprehend spoken Urdu in natural context and flow. Analyze cultural norms and themes. Acquire and use context specific vocab. Compare cultural perspectives. Imitate and recreate scenes/dialogues. Learn and play a new game using spontaneous language in low pressure and fun ways.
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