URD - Urdu

Urdu: URD

Lower-Division Courses

URD 604. Accelerated First-Year Urdu.

Designed for students who have some knowledge of spoken Urdu but have not studied Urdu formally. Six lecture hours a week for one semester. Hindi 604 and Urdu 604 may not both be counted; Hindi 506 and Urdu 604 may not both be counted; Hindi 507 and Urdu 604 may not both be counted; Urdu 604 and 506 may not both be counted; Urdu 604 and 507 may not both be counted.

URD 506. First-Year Urdu I.

Not open to native speakers of Urdu. Five class hours a week for one semester. Urdu 604 and 506 may not both be counted.

URD 507. First-Year Urdu II.

Not open to native speakers of Urdu. Five class hours a week for one semester. Urdu 604 and 507 may not both be counted. Prerequisite: Urdu 506 with a grade of at least C.

URD 612. Accelerated Second-Year Urdu.

Continuation of Urdu 604. Six lecture hours a week for one semester. Urdu 612 and 312K may not both be counted; Urdu 612 and 312L may not both be counted. Prerequisite: Urdu 604 with a grade of at least C.

URD 312K. Second-Year Urdu I.

Not open to native speakers of Urdu. Introduction to the Urdu script, followed by Urdu reading, composition, and conversation. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Urdu 612 and 312K may not both be counted. Prerequisite: Urdu 507 with a grade of at least C.

URD 312L. Second-Year Urdu II.

Not open to native speakers of Urdu. Continuation of Urdu 312K. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Urdu 612 and 312L may not both be counted. Prerequisite: Urdu 312K with a grade of at least C.

URD 118K. Practice in Spoken Urdu I.

Not open to native speakers of Urdu. Instruction and practice in conversation for intermediate-level students. Two lecture hours a week for one semester. Prerequisite: Urdu 507 with a grade of at least C.

URD 118L. Practice in Spoken Urdu II.

Not open to native speakers of Urdu. Two lecture hours a week for one semester. Prerequisite: Urdu 118K with a grade of at least C.

Upper-Division Courses


Topics in Urdu.

This course is used to record credit the student earns while enrolled at another institution in a program administered by the University’s Study Abroad Office. Credit is recorded as assigned by the study abroad adviser in the Department of Asian Studies. University credit is awarded for work in an exchange program; it may be counted as coursework taken in residence. Transfer credit is awarded for work in an affiliated studies program. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary.

URD 330. Topics in Urdu Language and Literature.

Study of specific subjects related to Urdu culture as reflected in literary productions and other modes of expression. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Urdu 312L with a grade of at least C.

Topic 1: Female Voices in Urdu Literature. Survey of prose and poetry written in Urdu by women during the last three centuries. Only one of the following may be counted: Religious Studies 341 (Topic: Female Voices in Urdu Literature), Urdu 330 (Topic 1), 384 (Topic 4).

Topic 2: Love and Devotion in Urdu Literature. Examination of various literary genres that are shaped by discourses on the love of God and devotion to the prophet Muhammad. Urdu 330 (Topic 2) and 384 (Topic 5) may not both be counted.

Topic 3: Philosophy and Poetry of Iqbal. Explores the prose and poetry written by the most influential twentieth-century Muslim reformer in South Asia, Muhammad Iqbal. Urdu 330 (Topic 3) and 384 (Topic 6) may not both be counted.

Topic 4: Urdu Aesthetics. Intensive overview of the most popular lyrical genre of Urdu poetry, the ghazal, and the standards used to judge a good ghazal. Urdu 330 (Topic 4) and 384 (Topic 7) may not both be counted.


Topic 6: Qawwali Aesthetics. Examination of the devotional currency of Qawwals, and issues of gender, class, religious differences, and nationalism. Explores the relationship between oral and written literature and tensions between local aesthetics and the process of globalization. Urdu 330 (Topic: Qawwali Aesthetics) and 330 (Topic 6) may not both be counted.

Topic 7: Partition in Literature and Film. Urdu 330 (Topic: Partition in Literature and Film) and 330 (Topic 7) may not both be counted.

URD 130D. Urdu Across Disciplines.

Reading of Urdu language materials related to the subject matter of another designated course in Asian studies. One lecture hour a week for one semester. May not be counted toward fulfillment of the foreign language requirement for any bachelor’s degree. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Registration for an appropriate Asian studies course, and written consent of instructor on form obtained from the undergraduate adviser.


Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Urdu 330 (Topic: Gender/ Sexuality In Urdu-Hindi) and 330G may not both be counted. Prerequisite: Urdu 312L with a grade of at least C.

URD 332. Style and Register in Urdu.

Practice of skills in reading, listening, writing, and speaking for everyday social situations and some formal situations. Relevant to students working toward the “Advanced” level on the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency scale, equivalent to level 2 on the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) scale. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. Urdu 330 (Topic: Style and Register in Urdu) and 332 may not both be counted. Prerequisite: Urdu 312L with a grade of at least C.

URD 360. Conference Course in Urdu Language and Literature.

Supervised individual study of selected problems in Urdu language or literature. Conference course. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Upper-division standing and written consent of instructor on form obtained from the undergraduate adviser.
Graduate Courses

URD 381. Conference Course in Urdu Language and Culture.
Supervised individual study. The equivalent of three lecture hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and written consent of instructor on form obtained from the graduate coordinator.

URD 384. Topics in Urdu Language and Culture.
Study of various aspects and periods of Urdu language and culture. Three lecture hours a week for one semester. May be repeated for credit when the topics vary. Prerequisite: Graduate standing, and six semester hours of upper-division coursework in Urdu with a grade of at least C; additional prerequisites vary with the topic.

- Topic 1: Advanced Reading, Composition, and Conversation I.
- Topic 2: Advanced Reading, Composition, and Conversation II.
- Topic 3: Readings in Urdu.
- Topic 4: Female Voices in Urdu Literature. Survey of prose and poetry written in Urdu by women during the last three centuries. Only one of the following may be counted: Religious Studies 341 (Topic: Female Voices in Urdu Literature), Urdu 330 (Topic 1), 384 (Topic 4).
- Topic 5: Love and Devotion in Urdu Literature. Examination of various literary genres that are shaped by discourses on the love of God and devotion to the prophet Muhammad. Urdu 330 (Topic 2) and 384 (Topic 5) may not both be counted.
- Topic 6: Philosophy and Poetry of Iqbal. Explores the prose and poetry written by the most influential twentieth-century Muslim reformer in South Asia, Muhammad Iqbal. Urdu 330 (Topic 3) and 384 (Topic 6) may not both be counted.
- Topic 7: Urdu Aesthetics. Intensive overview of the most popular lyrical genre of Urdu poetry, the ghazal, and the standards used to judge a good ghazal. Urdu 330 (Topic 4) and 384 (Topic 7) may not both be counted.
- Topic 8: Style and Register in Urdu. Practice of skills in reading, listening, writing, and speaking for everyday social situations and some formal situations. Relevant to students working toward the "Advanced" level on the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency scale, equivalent to level 2 on the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) scale. Urdu 384 (Topic: Style and Register in Urdu) and 384 (Topic 8) may not both be counted. Additional prerequisite: Reading and writing comprehension of Urdu equivalent to two academic years' study of Urdu, or consent of instructor.
- Topic 9: Urdu Short Stories: Manto. Survey of the writings of Sadat Hasan Manto. Primary texts in Urdu, secondary materials in English. Urdu 384 (Topic: Short Stories: Manto) and 384 (Topic 9) may not both be counted.
- Topic 10: Qawwali Aesthetics. Examination of the devotional currency of Qawwali, and issues of gender, class, religious differences, and nationalism. Explores the relationship between oral and written literature and tensions between local aesthetics and the process of globalization. Urdu 384 (Topic: Qawwali Aesthetics) and 384 (Topic 10) may not both be counted.
- Topic 11: Gender and Sexuality in Urdu-Hindi. Urdu 384 (Topic: Gender/Sexuality In Urdu-Hindi) and 384 (Topic 11) may not both be counted.

Professional Courses