



## **The City, the River, the Sacred**

### **URDU 100: *Beginning Urdu***

#### **Course Description**

This course provides students with an introduction to Urdu that aims to develop their basic speaking, reading, and writing skills. This course introduces the Urdu alphabet as well as basic Urdu grammar. Interactive in nature, this course focuses on imparting Urdu language skills to beginners and empowering students to engage in cross-cultural communication. Vocabulary related to daily life and practical necessities will be reinforced through dialogues, conversations, drills, and interactive classroom activities such as role playing and games. Field trips will also be organized to encourage the students to speak Urdu in a real-life context.

#### **Learning Objectives**

The aim of this course is to achieve well-rounded Urdu speaking ability, limited only by the range of vocabulary. While vocabulary acquisition is a long-term process, every effort will be made to provide the student with a strong vocabulary base that will act as a catalyst in their present and future attempts at mastering Urdu.

#### **Oral**

As the most important goal of this course is to enable students to communicate in spoken Urdu with fluency and without hesitation, oral presentations and role playing in short situational dialogues will be practiced regularly. Students are expected to actively participate in these exercises and are encouraged to share their ideas for new situational dialogues with the instructor.

#### **Reading/Writing**

Students will be expected to read and write Urdu at a reasonable pace. Readings will be assigned from selected stories. Journal entries and short writing compositions will also be regularly assigned.

#### **Vocabulary**

A strong emphasis will be placed on vocabulary relating to daily life (based on frequency and context).

## Listening Comprehension

In addition to the focus on listening comprehension provided by role-playing exercises, students will receive extra practice by listening to short stories, conversations, and reading passages. Students will be expected to give short oral presentations on assigned topics or topics of their choice.

## Course Schedule

Class	Topics Covered
1*	Urdu script. The Urdu alphabet presented from right to left, Urdu letters with the diacritical marks zabar, zer, and pesh. Urdu numerals. Urdu orthography. Reading and writing exercises.
2*	Urdu script. The Urdu alphabet presented from right to left, Urdu letters with the diacritical marks zabar, zer, and pesh. Urdu numerals. Urdu orthography. Reading and writing exercises. - continued
3*	Urdu script. The Urdu alphabet presented from right to left, Urdu letters with the diacritical marks zabar, zer, and pesh. Urdu numerals. Urdu orthography. Reading and writing exercises. - continued
4*	Sentence structure, pronouns, present tense of verb “to be”, nouns (gender).
5*	Nouns (plural), adjectives, possessive, counting, here, there and question words (how many, who and where).
6	Imperative
7	Postpositions and nouns in oblique case. سے, کو Dialogue: How many people are in your family?
8	Adjectives in oblique case and oblique forms of pronouns
9	Review classes 1-8
10	<b>Test</b> (classes 1-8)
11	Use of want چاہیے with noun, suffix. Dialogue: I need a shirt and I am from India.
12	Past tense of “to be” ہونا (was/were). Reading dialogue. Postposition with time and with motion verbs.
13	Present and Past Habitual. Use of also بھی, even, too.
14	Use of Present continuous, use of since, different uses of بس when and how long, use of enough, use of the words بی پکا کچا اپنا
15	Use of Past continuous, use of some کچھ, use of enough کافی.
16	<b>Quiz</b> Indefinite pronouns and adjectives, use of کوئی کسی کچھ.
17	Some verbal construction with post-position: to meet ملنا سے (with) x = use of although حالانکہ, for X be interested in Y. X کو Y میں دلچسپی ہونا.
18	Use of چاہیے with nouns and verbs, dialogue, exercise, vocabulary.

19	In-class role-play: knowing each other
20	Review classes 13-18
21	<b>Test</b> (classes 11-18)
22	Perfective tense with transitive verbs, exceptional verbs, verbs that use سے and کو , further use of conjunction کہ, present and past perfect.
23	Use of future tense, use of question word کون سا.
24	<b>Quiz</b> Future imperative, construction: X know how to....
25	Use of echo and rhyming words, use of transitive verb کرنا with nouns and adjectives.
26	Use of intransitive verb ہونا with nouns and adjectives, use of suffix بھر use of verb چاہنا in the future tense.
27	Use of the verb لگنا, change the word order.
28	Use of the verb سکتا to express can, could, could have, could not.
29	Review (class 22-28)
30	<b>Test</b>
31	Use of the postposition may, in place of کے پاس describing intrinsic attributes, use of suffix میں سے سی میں to explain similarity, use of word ٹھیک .
32	Use of construction کر.
33	Use of subjunctive.
34	<b>Quiz</b> Use of لگنا,
35	Use of the construction ہونا and پڑنا
36	Expressing probability, use of ہوگا expectation or presumption.
37*	<b>Review</b>
38*	Final exam

### Notes

- Classes will be one hour in length and unless noted by \*
- These (\*) classes will be one hour and thirty minutes
- The topics scheduled above may change due to the learning needs of the students
- Homework will be assigned during class
- Students will be encouraged to talk in Urdu inside and outside of the classroom
- In addition to the class schedule above, there will be two class outings (one hour and fifteen minutes each), giving students an opportunity to practice spoken Urdu.

### Homework

Homework will be assigned according to the learning needs of the students. Students are expected to follow the instructions provided and submit assignments on time.

## **Evaluation**

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

Test 1 (reading and dictation) —	10%
Tests 2 and 3 —	30%
Quizzes —	15%
Final exam —	30%
In-class Participation —	15%

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be able to perform simple language functions at a level comprehensible to the average native Urdu speaker. Emphasis is placed on using the language creatively in authentic contexts.

Students will be able to introduce themselves and provide some personal background information and have simple conversations with native speakers on topics like basic health issues, food, weather and directions. They will also be able to talk with shopkeepers in local markets, and plan their own bus and train travel.

## **Classroom Expectations**

Each student is expected to be proactive in his/her attitude in class and towards homework. Questions and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated. Students may also ask questions outside of class both in-people as well as via email. Feedback from using the Urdu learned in-class outside of the classroom should be given promptly and without hesitation.

## **Recommended Texts**

*Teach Yourself Urdu*, David Matthews and Mohd. Kasim Dalvi will be used as course book which the students are required to purchase upon their arrival in Varanasi.

Other recommended books are:

1. *Introduction to Urdu an Essential Grammar*, Ruth Laila Schmidt
2. *Beginning Urdu*, Virendra Singh and Ashok Kumar

Extra material and handouts will be provided by the teacher in the course of the semester.

## Grading

Alliance programs utilize the follow standard grading policy well accepted by most US institutions.

Excellent	A	93-100%	Good	B+	87-89%	Acceptable	C+	77-79%
	A-	90-92%		B	83-86%		C	73-76%
				B-	80-82%		C-	70-72%
						Unsatisfactory	D+	67-69%
							D	63-66%
							D-	60-62%
						Failing	F	<60%

## Course Policies

### Exams and Assignments

Students are required to take all regularly scheduled exams in courses for which they are registered, and to submit all assignments on time. Any compelling academic, personal, or medical reason that might justify a rescheduled exam or assignment must be brought up to both the Resident Director and program faculty. Failure to take scheduled exams or submit the requisite assignments for a course will adversely affect your grade as per the stated grading criteria for each course.

### Classroom Conduct

Student punctuality is extremely important in China and India. Please do not be late for classes or other activities, as it is considered impolite to do so. It is improper to eat in class, to engage in other activities such as texting, or to slump or nap. Students are expected to be alert and engaged as a sign of respect for their professors.

### Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. It is essential that the students participate fully in the coursework and all required academic activities. Authorized absences may only be approved by the Resident Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Unauthorized absences will adversely affect a student's grades.