



ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Government of Pakistan, Islamabad
(Curriculum Division)

ENDORSEMENT OF THE COURSE DESIGN COMMITTEE

A meeting of a course design committee was held on 5 September 2023 in the Higher Education Commission, Regional Office, Lahore to design a two-credits course of “Civics and Community Engagement” as part of the general education component of the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy (V I.1).

Following members of the committee attended the meeting and developed the draft of the course:

1. Dr. Asif Naveed Ranjha, Professor & Chairperson, Department of Social Work, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahawalpur
2. Dr. Mumtaz Ali Baloch, Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Balochistan, Quetta
3. Dr. Naveed Ahmed, Professor, University Law College, University of the Punjab, Lahore
4. Dr. Asmat Ara, Associate Professor & Chairperson, Department of Mass Communication, University of Karachi, Karachi
5. Dr. Farasat Rasool, Associate Professor, School of Media & Mass Communication, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore
6. Dr. Farhan Hanif Siddiqi, Associate Professor, School of Politics & International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad
7. Dr. Fouzia Ghani, Associate Professor & Chairperson, Department of Political Science, Government College University, Lahore
8. Dr. Naila Usman Siddiqui, Associate Professor & Chairperson, Department of Sociology, University of Karachi, Karachi
9. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Social Work, University of Peshawar, Peshawar
10. Dr. Ume Laila, Associate Professor, Department of Government & Public Policy, National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad
11. Dr. Amen Jaffer, Assistant Professor, Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore
12. Dr. Natasha Kiran, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy & Interdisciplinary Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
13. Dr. Qurah-tul-Ain, Assistant Professor & Chairperson, Department of Public Administration, University of Kotli Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Kotli
14. Dr. Shakila Noor Sindhu, Assistant Professor & Chairperson, Department of Political Science, Forman Christian College, Lahore
15. Mr. Muhammad Ali Baig, Deputy Director, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad

That after consultation and endorsement of the committee, the final draft of the course is hereby submitted to the office of the Director Curriculum Division, HEC, Islamabad by us / the undersigned on behalf of the committee for consideration of HEC.

Dr. Shakila Noor Sindhu
(Convener)

Dr. Farhan Hanif Siddiqi
(Co-Convener)

Mr. Muhammad Ali Baig
(Secretary)

PLEASE NOTE:

1. The Curriculum Division, HEC may conduct an internal review of the draft submitted by the committee and make necessary amendments as and when needed, with or without sharing reasons of the same with the committee.
2. The Curriculum Division, HEC may refer the draft submitted by the committee to other experts or a new committee for review who may propose revisions / additional recommendations in the said draft.

CIVICS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UGE Policy V 1.1 : General Education Course

Credits:	02
Pre-Requisite:	Nil
Offering:	Undergraduate Degrees (including Associate Degrees)
Placement:	1 - 4 Semesters
Type:	General Education
Fields:	All

DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students with fundamental knowledge about civics, citizenship, and community engagement. In this course, the students will learn about the essentials of civil society, government, civic responsibilities, inclusivity, and effective ways to participate in shaping the society which will help them apply theoretical knowledge to the real-world situations to make a positive impact on their communities.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate fundamental understanding of civics, government, citizenship and civil society.
2. Understand the concept of community and recognize the significance of community engagement for individuals and groups.
3. Recognize the importance of diversity and inclusivity for societal harmony and peaceful co-existence.

SYLLABUS

- 1. Civics and Citizenship:**
 - Concepts of civics, citizenship, and civic engagement.
 - Foundations of modern society and citizenship.
 - Types of citizenship: active, participatory, digital, etc.
- 2. State, Government and Civil Society:**
 - Structure and functions of government in Pakistan.
 - The relationship between democracy and civil society.
 - Right to vote and importance of political participation and representation.
- 3. Rights and Responsibilities:**
 - Overview of fundamental rights and liberties of citizens under Constitution of Pakistan 1973.
 - Civic responsibilities and duties.
 - Ethical considerations in civic engagement (accountability, non-violence, peaceful dialogue, civility, etc.)
- 4. Community Engagement:**
 - Concept, nature and characteristics of community.
 - Community development and social cohesion.
 - Approaches to effective community engagement.
 - Case studies of successful community driven initiatives.
- 5. Advocacy and Activism:**
 - Public discourse and public opinion.
 - Role of advocacy in addressing social issues.
 - Social action movements.
- 6. Digital Citizenship and Technology:**
 - The use of digital platforms for civic engagement.
 - Cyber ethics and responsible use of social media.

- Digital divides and disparities (access, usage, socioeconomic, geographic, etc.) and their impacts on citizenship.

7. Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice:

- Understanding diversity in society (ethnic, cultural, economic, political etc.).
- Youth, women and minorities' engagement in social development.
- Addressing social inequalities and injustices in Pakistan.
- Promoting inclusive citizenship and equal rights for societal harmony and peaceful co-existence.

SUGGESTED PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES (OPTIONAL)

As part of the overall learning requirements, the course may have one or a combination of the following practical activities:

- 1. Community Storytelling:** Students can collect and share stories from community members. This could be done through oral histories, interviews, or multimedia presentations that capture the lived experiences and perspectives of diverse individuals.
- 2. Community Event Planning:** Students can organize a community event or workshop that addresses a specific issue or fosters community interaction. This could be a health fair, environmental cleanup, cultural festival, or educational workshop.
- 3. Service-Learning:** Students can collaborate with a local nonprofit organization or community group. They can actively contribute by volunteering their time and skills to address a particular community need, such as tutoring, mentoring, or supporting vulnerable populations.
- 4. Cultural Exchange Activities:** Students can organize a cultural exchange event that celebrates the diversity within the community. This could include food tastings, performances, and presentations that promote cross-cultural understanding.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL / READING MATERIALS

1. "Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics, & You" by McGraw-Hill Education.
2. "Citizenship in Diverse Societies" by Will Kymlicka and Wayne Norman.
3. "Engaging Youth in Civic Life" by James Youniss and Peter Levine.
4. "Digital Citizenship in Action: Empowering Students to Engage in Online Communities" by Kristen Mattson.
5. "Globalization and Citizenship: In the Pursuit of a Cosmopolitan Education" by Graham Pike and David Selby.
6. "Community Engagement: Principles, Strategies, and Practices" by Becky J. Feldpausch and Susan M. Omilian.
7. "Creating Social Change: A Blueprint for a Better World" by Matthew Clarke and Marie-Monique Steckel.