

GCCE-201: CIVICS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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. 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 coexistence.

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to Civics and Citizenship:

- Definition of civics, citizenship, and civic engagement.
- Historical evolution of civic participation.
- Types of citizenship: active, participatory, digital, etc.
- The relationship between democracy and citizenship.

2. Civics and Citizenship

- Concepts of civics, citizenship, and civic engagement.
- Foundations of modern society and citizenship.
- Types of citizenship: active, participatory, digital, etc.

3. 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.

4. Right 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.)

5. 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.

6. Advocacy and Activism

- Public discourse and public opinion.
- Role of advocacy in addressing social issues.
- Social action movements.

7. Digital Citizenship and Technology

- The use of digital platforms for civic engagement.
- Cyber ethics and responsible use of social media.
- Digital divides and responsible (access, usage, socioeconomic, geographic, etc.) and their impacts on citizenship.

8. 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 coexistence.

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 MATERIAL

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.
8. **Creating Social Change: A Blueprint for a Better World”** by Matthew Clarke and Marie-Monique Steckel.