

**Department of Gender Studies
Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences
University of the Punjab, Lahore
Course Outline**



Program	BS Gender Studies	Course Code	GS-114	Credit Hours	3
Course Title	Gender and Human Rights				
Course Introduction					
<p>This course provides an understanding of the centrality of gender equality to human rights discourse generally and how this is addressed within the UN human rights system specifically. Students will gain an overview of the various legal and normative frameworks that promote women’s rights, address gender identities, and advance practical approaches to securing gender equality. The course will also examine critical concepts such as inter-sectionality and cultural relativism as they relate to the enforcement of existing international approaches to advancing gender equality and human rights in Pakistan.</p>					
Learning Outcomes					
<p>After completion of this course, the students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. focus on human rights stated by International Human Rights bodies; 2. critically investigate legal issues, socio-cultural construction of Pakistani society as well as Pakistan’s commitments and compliance to International Human Rights Law with special reference to gender; 3. Identify gaps and shortcomings of existing human rights instruments using a gender lens. 					
Course Content				Assignments/Readings	
Week 1	<p>Introduction to Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and Duties • Need, Significance and importance of Human Rights 				
Week 2	Human Rights in Islam				
	Quran and Hadith				

Week 3	Fundamental Human Rights	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Nation Charter 	
Week 4	Human Rights in the Constitution of Pakistan	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of different Articles of Constitution 	
Week 5	Gender and Human Rights	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 	
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beijing Platform for Action • Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 	
	Gender, Law and Human Rights in Pakistan	
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights in Pakistan: Legal Perspective • Pro Women Legislation in Pakistan 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes introduced in the criminal laws: Law of Evidence, Shariyat Act, Rajam, Qisas and Diyat, Hudood or Punishments. • The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2010 • Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929/ 2016 • Punjab Governments women empowerment packages • The Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2016 	
Week 8	Family Laws in the Pre-Independence Period	
Week 9	Muslim Family Law Ordinance, 1961	
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage • Polygamy • Dower • Dowry (Dowry and Bridal Gifts Restriction) 	

	Act, 1976)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissolution of Marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talaq ○ Khula ○ Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act (1939) 	
Week 9	Muslim Family Law Ordinance, 1961	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iddat • Maintenance • Custody and Guardianship 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law of Inheritance • Recent Reforms in Punjab 	
Week 10	Protection of women against harassment at the workplace Act, 2019	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal & Provincial Ombudspersons • HEC Policy of Zero Tolerance against Harassment at Universities 	
Week 11	Rights of Transgender Community	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship • Education and Health Rights 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inheritance • Right to Vote 	
Week 12	Minority Rights in Pakistan	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindus • Christians • Other Minorities 	
Week 13	Federal and Provincial Ministries	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal & Provincial Ministry of Human Rights • Federal & Provincial Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony 	
Week 14	Protection of Human Rights	

	Role of Civil Society	
Week 15	Challenges Human Rights in Pakistan: Causes and issues	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness about rights 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural impediments • Human Rights Violations and Abuses 	
Week 16	Monitoring, Implementing and Enforcing Human Rights	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reports system • Inter-state and individual complaints • Rapporteur and special investigators • Ratification, declaration and reservation • State reports 	

Textbooks and Reading Material

Ali Shaik (n.d). *Law of Divorce and Khula in Pakistan*. Available online

Anita M. Weiss (2012). *Moving Forward with the Legal Empowerment of Women in Pakistan*.

Farani, M. (N.A). *Manual of Family Laws*. Lahore: G.F Printings Press.

Fredman, S., Goldblatt, B., & Women, U. N. (2015). *Gender equality and human rights*. UN.

Freeman M. (2003). *Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. UK: Polity Press.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (2012). *State of Human Rights: Annual Report*. Lahore: HRCP

International Human Rights Observer. *Pakistan Law on Human Rights*.

Iqbal, Safia. (2001). *Women and Islamic Law*. Lahore: Islamic Publications.

Jahangir, A. (2000). Human rights in Pakistan: A system in the making. *Realizing Human Rights: Moving from Inspiration to Impact*, 167-193.

Krivenko, E. Y. (2020). Gender and Human Rights: Expanding Concepts. In *Gender and Human Rights*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Lynn Welchman (2004). *Women's Rights and Islamic Family Law: Perspectives on Reform*. Zed Books; London

NCSW (2012). *Women's Right of Inheritance. National Commission on the Status of Women*. Available online New York: US Institute of Peace.

Rai, U.R (2011). *Fundamental Rights and their Enforcement*. New Delhi: PHI Learning.

Rhona K.M. Smith (2007). *Textbook on International Human Rights*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Shamsi, N (2003). *Human Rights and Islam*. New Delhi: Reference Press.

SirkatGah. (1994). *A handbook on Family Law in Pakistan*. Lahore: ShirkatGah Publication.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (2008). *Land Rights for Muslim Women: Review of Law and Policy*.

Yilmaz, I. (2011). Good governance in action: Pakistani Muslim law on human rights and gender- equality. *European Journal of Economic and Political Studies (EJEPS)*, 4(2)

Teaching Learning Strategies

1. Working on Assignments
2. Presentations
3. Group Discussions
4. Individual Assessment
5. Quizzes

Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

1. Group work on different religion and rights given by religions in the world
2. Group wise discussion on Federal & Provincial Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony
3. Presentations of class on different topics

Assessment

Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
1.	Midterm Assessment	35%	Written Assessment at the mid-point of the semester.

2.	Formative Assessment	25%	Continuous assessment includes: Classroom participation, assignments, presentations, viva voce, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, projects, practical, reflections, readings, quizzes etc.
3.	Final Assessment	40%	Written Examination at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.