

Pakistani Society and Culture

Social Sciences Course

Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of Pakistani society and culture through a sociological lens. It examines the historical and contemporary contexts of Pakistani society, focusing on social structures, institutions, and cultural practices. Students will analyze the complex interplay of ethnicity, identity, and social stratification, and explore the impact of gender dynamics and family structures. The course delves into urbanization trends, cultural traditions, and the influence of globalization on local cultures. Additionally, students will investigate the role of media, popular culture, and civil society in shaping social norms and driving social change. Through lectures, case studies, and interactive discussions, students will gain a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted nature of Pakistani society and culture.

Course objectives

After completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Develop a thorough understanding of the historical evolution and sociological frameworks that shape Pakistani society and culture.
2. Examine and critically assess the roles of social structures, institutions, and cultural practices, including family systems, education, and religion, in shaping Pakistani society.
3. Analyze the complexities of ethnic diversity, identity formation, and social stratification, including issues related to caste and Biradari, within the Pakistani context.
4. Assess the effects of urbanization, rural-urban dynamics, and globalization on social structures, cultural practices, and local traditions.
5. Explore the influence of media, popular culture, and civil society organizations on societal norms, social movements, and human rights issues in Pakistan,

Course Content:

- 1. Introduction to Pakistani Society and Culture**
 - Overview of Pakistani society: Historical context and contemporary issues
 - Key sociological concepts and frameworks for understanding Pakistani culture
- 2. Social Structures and Institutions**
 - Family and kinship structures: Traditional and modern family systems
 - Education: Role and impact of education in societal development
 - Religion and spirituality: Islam's influence and other religious practices
- 3. Ethnicity and Identity**
 - Ethnicity and social stratification
 - Ethnic diversity: Major ethnic groups, languages, and regional identities
 - Identity formation and conflict: Interactions between ethnic and national identities
 - Social stratification: Caste and Biradari
- 4. Gender and Family Dynamics**

- What is gender: the difference between gender and sex
 - Family as a social institution
 - Gender roles and norms: Traditional roles vs. contemporary changes
 - Family structures and dynamics: Impact of modernization and urbanization.
- 5. Urbanization and Rural-Urban Dynamics**
- Urbanization trends: Growth of cities and migration patterns
 - Rural-urban divide: Socioeconomic differences and challenges.
- 6. Cultural Practices and Traditions**
- Culture and characteristics of culture
 - Festivals, rituals, and cultural practices: Regional and national significance
- 7. Globalization and Cultural Exchange**
- Impact of globalization on local cultures and traditions of Pakistan
 - Cultural exchange and transnational influences: Diaspora communities and their impact.
- 8. Media and Popular Culture**
- Role of media in Pakistani society
 - Influence of popular culture: music, film, and sports
- 9. Civil Society and Social Movements**
- Role of NGOs and civil society organizations
 - Human rights issues and key social movements and their impact
Human rights issues and advocacy

Teaching-Learning Strategies:

Teaching will combine class lectures, class discussions, and group work.

Assignments:

The sessional work will be a combination of written assignments, class quizzes, presentations, and class participation/attendance.

Assessments and Examination:

Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
1.	Midterm Assessment	35%	It is a written examination that takes place at the mid-point of the semester.
2.	Formative Assessment	25%	It is a continuous assessment. It includes a variety of activities mentioned above.
3.	Final Assessment	40%	It is a written examination that takes place at the end of the semester.

Suggested Readings:

- Ali, S. S. (2013). Pakistani Culture: Unity in diversity or diversity in unity? *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 52(2), 97-108.
- Ali, S., Latif, A., & Zafar, Z. (2020). Socio-Cultural Determinants of Honor Killing in Pakistan. *Journal of Indian Studies*, 6(01), 25-40.
- Ahmed, A. S. (1990). The politics of Ethnicity in Pakistan society. *Asian Affairs*, 21(1), 20-35.
- Awan, D. S. Z. (2012). Role of civil society in empowering Pakistani women.
- Harry, N. (2012). *Understanding Pakistani culture*. Author House.
- Hassan Ali, M. (2010). Sufi influence on Pakistani politics and culture. *Pakistaniaat: A Journal of Pakistan Studies*, 2(1), 23-45.
- Maria-Magdalena Fuchs & Simon Wolfgang Fuchs (2020) Religious Minorities in Pakistan: Identities, Citizenship and Social Belonging, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 43:1, 52-67.
- Pasha, H. K. (2024). Gender differences in education: are girls neglected in Pakistani society? *Journal of the Knowledge Economy*, 15(1), 3466-3511.
- Qadeer, M. (2006). *Pakistan-social and cultural transformations in a Muslim Nation*. Routledge.
- Suhag, A. K., & Khan, N. (2020). National educational policies of Pakistan with reference to social justice: A critical analysis. *Global Educational Studies Review*, 3, 166-174.
- Usman, A. (2011). *Social stratification in a Punjabi village of Pakistan: the dynamics between caste, gender, and violence* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Leeds).