Department:	SSLA (Social Science & Liberal Arts
Course Title:	Civics and Community Engagement in Karachi
Course Code:	
Semester:	1st
Duration:	16 Weeks | 1 (Lecture) + 1 (Seminar) | 2 Credit Hours
Instructor:	Saqib Ahmed **(saqib.ahmedivs@gmail.com)**

Course Description:

This course explores the principles of civic responsibility, democracy, and community engagement through the lens of Karachi's urban realities. Students will examine the relationship between citizens, government institutions, and civil society in Pakistan's largest and most diverse city. By studying governance structures, urban challenges, and grassroots initiatives, students will learn how to actively engage in their communities and contribute to building a more inclusive, participatory, and sustainable Karachi.

Course Objectives:

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

1. Understand civic rights and responsibilities within Pakistan's constitutional and legal framework.
2. Analyze the governance structures of Karachi (local government, provincial, federal).
3. Identify Karachi's key civic challenges (e.g., waste management, water scarcity, public transport, inequality).
4. Engage with NGOs, social movements, and community organizations active in Karachi.
5. Develop leadership and participatory skills through community-based projects in local neighborhoods.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

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

1. Explain the basic rights and responsibilities of citizens in Pakistan.
2. Describe how Karachi's government and civic institutions work.
3. Identify major civic challenges in Karachi (water, waste, transport, inequality).
4. Recognize the role of NGOs and community groups in solving civic problems.
5. Work in teams to design and carry out a small community project.
6. Develop skills in communication, debate, and problem-solving.
7. Reflect on their role as active citizens in Karachi.

Teaching & Learning Activities (TLAs):

- **Lectures:** Short talks on civics, democracy, and Karachi's civic problems.
- **Class Discussions:** Debates on current issues (e.g., waste management, elections).
- **Case Studies:** Real examples like Orangi Pilot Project or Aurat March.
- **Simulations/Role Plays:** Mock parliament or mock election activity.
- **Group Work:** Design posters, campaigns, or solutions to civic issues.
- **Field Visits/NGO Engagement:** Visit a local community, NGO, or neighborhood.
- **Reflection Tasks:** Write short journals or essays about personal civic identity.
- **Final Project:** Group presentation on a Karachi civic issue with practical solutions.

Weekly Outline:

Unit 1: Foundations of Civics in Pakistan & Karachi (Weeks 1–3)

- Citizenship in Pakistan: constitutional rights & responsibilities
- Karachi as a "megacity": history, diversity, and civic identity
- Democracy in Pakistan: challenges of urban governance

Activity: Reflection paper on "What does being a citizen of Karachi mean to me?"

Unit 2: Governance and Institutions in Karachi (Weeks 4–5)

- Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Karachi Development Authority (KDA), Sindh government vs. federal authorities
- Local government system in Karachi: powers and limitations

- Police, judiciary, and law enforcement in the city
- Elections and political parties in Karachi (MQM, PPP, PTI, Jamaat-e-Islami, etc.)

Activity: Simulation of a KMC council meeting on a pressing issue (e.g., water shortage).

Unit 3: Civil Society and Grassroots Engagement in Karachi (Weeks 6–7)

- Role of NGOs (e.g., Edhi Foundation, Citizens Foundation, Indus Hospital, Urban Resource Centre)
- Community organizations in katchi abadis and low-income neighborhoods
- Civic volunteerism and philanthropy in Karachi's culture
- Media and digital activism in Karachi

Activity: Mapping Karachi-based NGOs and their areas of work.

Unit 4: Karachi's Urban Challenges (Weeks 8–10)

- Waste management and Karachi's garbage crisis
- Water supply, sanitation, and informal water markets
- Public transport (Green Line BRT, minibuses, rickshaws, ride-hailing)
- Inequality in urban spaces (Clifton/Defence vs. Lyari, Orangi, Korangi)
- Environmental issues: mangrove destruction, heatwaves, pollution

Activity: Fieldwork visits OR group projects addressing a local issue (e.g., waste segregation in neighborhood).

Unit 5: Civic Movements and Engagement in Karachi (Weeks 11–12)

- Student politics and youth organizations (past and present)
- Neighborhood associations and housing struggles (e.g., Orangi Pilot Project)
- Social justice activism: gender rights, minority rights, climate activism
- Case studies: Aurat March, Karachi Bachao Tehreek, Shehri-CBE, FixIt Campaign

Activity: Group presentations on local civic movements and their strategies.

Unit 6: Civic Leadership and Future of Karachi (Weeks 13–14)

- Youth leadership in urban change

- Digital citizenship in Pakistan (social media, misinformation, activism)
- Reimagining Karachi: sustainable and inclusive futures
- Final reflections: linking civic theory with Karachi's everyday realities

Activity: Final project presentations: students propose practical solutions for a civic issue in Karachi (policy brief, awareness campaign, or community initiative).

Assessment:

- Class Participation & Discussions – 10%
- Midterm Exam – 30%
- Final Presentation & Paper – 40 %
- Assignment – 20 %

Suggested Readings:

- Arif Hasan, *Understanding Karachi: Planning and Reform for the Future*
- Akbar Zaidi, *Issues in Pakistan's Economy* (sections on urbanization & governance)
- Yasmin Khan, *The Great Partition* (for Karachi's history of migration)
- Reports by Urban Resource Centre (URC), Shehri-CBE, Aurat Foundation
- Dawn & Herald archives on Karachi's civic challenges

- Barber, B. R. *Strong Democracy: Participatory Politics for a New Age*
- Putnam, R. D. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*
- Boyte, H. *Everyday Politics: Reconnecting Citizens and Public Life*
- Relevant local policy documents, constitutions, NGO reports

16-Week Lecture Plan

Week 1 – Introduction to Civics and Karachi as a Civic Space

- Lecture: What is civics? Rights, responsibilities, and civic identity in Pakistan
- Discussion: Karachi's uniqueness as a megacity: history, identity and Civic Identity
- Activity: Reflection paper – *"What does being a citizen of Karachi mean to me?"*

Week 2 – Citizenship, Constitution, and Democratic Values

- Lecture: Pakistan's Constitution (basic rights, duties, federal–provincial balance)
- Case Study: Fundamental Rights and local controversies (e.g., freedom of speech, protest rights in Karachi)
- Activity: Class debate – *Rights vs. Responsibilities of Karachi's citizens*

Week 3 – Democracy and Urban Governance in Karachi

- Lecture: Local government history in Karachi (from colonial municipal bodies to today's KMC)
- Discussion: Relationship between local government, Sindh government, and federal agencies
- Activity: Group simulation – *KMC council debating water scarcity or waste management*

Week 4 – Government Institutions and the Rule of Law

- Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Karachi Development Authority (KDA), Sindh government vs. federal authorities
- Lecture: Executive, judiciary, and law enforcement in Karachi
- Case Study: Karachi Police reforms and challenges of law & order
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- Activity: Mock trial – exploring the rule of law in a civic dispute

Week 5 – Political Participation and Elections in Karachi

- Lecture: Role of political parties in Karachi (MQM, PPP, PTI, JI)
- Case Study: Local elections and voter turnout in Karachi
- Activity: Mock election campaign & voting exercise

Week 6 – Civil Society and NGOs in Karachi

- Lecture: NGOs, philanthropy, and grassroots activism (Edhi, TCF, Indus Hospital)
- Case Study: Orangi Pilot Project as a model of civic innovation
- Activity: Mapping Karachi-based NGOs and their community impact

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Week 7 – Community Organizations and Volunteerism

- Lecture: Neighborhood-level engagement in katchi abadis and middle-class areas
- Discussion: Barriers to volunteerism in Karachi (class, gender, security)
- Activity: Volunteer reflection task (short community activity & report back)

Week 8- Mid Term

- **Week 9 – Urban Challenges I: Infrastructure and Services**
  - Lecture: Waste management, water supply, sanitation in Karachi
  - Case Study: Karachi's garbage crisis & informal water markets
  - Activity: Group project planning – select a civic issue to address

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Week 10 – Urban Challenges II: Transport and Inequality

- Lecture: Public transport in Karachi (minibuses, BRT Green Line, rickshaws)
- Case Study: Inequality between elite areas (Clifton/Defence) vs. working-class areas (Lyari, Korangi, Orangi)
- Activity: Students design an advocacy campaign on transport or inequality

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Week 11 – Environmental Issues in Karachi

- Lecture: Climate change, mangrove destruction, heatwaves, urban flooding
- Case Study: Karachi heatwave (2015) and civil society response
- Activity: Group discussion – *How can Karachi become a sustainable city?*

Week 12 – Social Movements and Civic Activism in Karachi

- Lecture: Aurat March, Karachi Bachao Tehreek, Shehri-CBE, FixIt campaign
- Discussion: Role of students and youth in civic movements
- Activity: Group presentations on selected civic/social movements

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Week 13 – Human Rights and Social Justice

- Lecture: Gender, minority, and labor rights in Karachi
- Case Study: Christian and Hindu communities in Karachi; issues of urban labor rights
- Activity: Role-play – civic dialogue between minority groups and local government

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Week 14 – Civic Leadership and Digital Citizenship

- Lecture: Role of youth, social media, and digital activism in Karachi
- Discussion: Fake news, online harassment, and digital ethics
- Activity: Students design a social media campaign around a Karachi civic issue

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Week 15 – Course Wrap-Up: From Classroom to Community

- Final Project Presentations: Students present their group civic engagement projects (policy proposal, awareness campaign, or neighborhood initiative)
- Reflection: *"What I learned about being an active citizen in Karachi"*
- Closing discussion: Sustaining civic responsibility beyond the classroom

Week 16- Final FRP

Note:
The course outline/weekly schedule is subject to change due to any necessary course updates or unavoidable logistical issues. You will be notified of any such changes, in advance as soon as possible.