

V1. University General Requirements Unit (UGRU)

V1.1 Overview

The University General Requirements Unit has its distinctive curricula which provide students with a wide range of knowledge, skills and attitudes designed to produce the outcomes required of college students irrespective of their specialization. It is hoped such outcomes would help students perform better in their college education and in their careers after graduation.

V1.2 Unit Vision

UGRU aspires to provide college students with knowledge and skills which help them perform well in their University education.

V1.3 Unit Mission

UGRU aims at preparing college students to be good citizens characterized by loyalty to their country, religion and nation. The Unit also provides them with skills in communication, critical thinking and responsiveness to other's opinion and through a variety of courses which embrace innovative methods, research and community service.

V1.4 Unit Goals and Objectives

The Aims and Goals of the General Requirements Unit at the AU are derived directly from the University mission and general aims. They embody the major goals which the University endeavours to achieve for its graduates. The main aims can be summarized as follows:

- a. Enhancing students' pride in Islamic faith and Arabic civilization and fostering their adherence to tolerant values.
- b. Consolidating students' basic and higher skills needed for success during college study and for on-going learning after graduation. Since the new millennium witnesses an upsurge in the job market skills, the AU is keen on consolidating the latest of such skills.
- c. Enhancing ethics and the ability to understand others and interact with them in a multi-cultural background.
- d. Developing students' leadership skills and their ability to engage in cooperative work.
- e. Demonstrating awareness of professional ethics in their decision making and problem solving.
- f. Understanding and appreciating the role of science and technology in the twenty-first century and supporting attitudes of environmental conservation.

Table (1) shows the major outcomes for each of the stated goals. These outcomes are the backbone upon which the program courses are designed.

Table (1) Major Goals of the General Requirements Unit at AU

	Aim	Code	Outcomes
1	Taking pride in Islamic culture and adhering to its tolerant values	1.1	Identify the general features of Islam and abide by its values.
		1.2	Analyze the current international issues from an Islamic perspective.
		1.3	Identify the concepts of culture and civilization from an Islamic perspective.
		1.4	Illustrate the tolerance of Islamic faith through its system and jurisdiction stated in the Quran and Hadith.
2	Consolidating basic and higher skills	2.1	Speak, read and write in Arabic clearly and efficiently in order to acquire and transfer knowledge.
		2.2	Listen, speak, read and write in English clearly and efficiently in his/her own specialty.
		2.3	Analyze and assess information.
		2.4	Use creative and critical thinking skills in his/her academic and practical life.
		2.5	Apply problem solving strategies and practice decision making efficiently.
		2.6	Employ information technology efficiently.
		2.7	Explain some statistical methods.
		2.8	Illustrate his/her knowledge of some simple algebraic and math concepts.
		2.9	Explain the scientific research method in his/her own field of specialization.
		2.10	Apply scientific research method in his/her own field of specialization.
3	Supporting the role of University graduates as individuals to take pride in their society, fostering their pride in their Arab and Islamic culture while respecting other cultures and coexisting with them, understanding global issues and interacting with them.	3.1	Aware of and committed to his/her responsibilities and duties as an individual in society.
		3.2	Discuss the general features of the Arab and Islamic civilization.
		3.3	Appreciate and take pride in the Arab and Islamic heritage.
		3.4	Appreciate other cultures.
		3.5	Demonstrate clear awareness of the current global issues.
4	Developing Students' Leadership skills and their abilities for cooperative work.	4.1	Lead work-team efficiently.
		4.2	Participate in team work efficiently.
		4.3	Adjust easily with the needs of the job market.
		4.4	Show clear awareness with the local and global environmental considerations.
5	Awareness of professional ethics in their decision making and problem solving.	5.1	Demonstrate awareness of general ethics in his/her decisions and deeds.
		5.2	Demonstrate clear awareness in professional ethics.
		5.3	Apply professional ethics in his/her specialization.
6	Understanding and appreciating the role of science and technology in the twenty-first century.	6.1	Evaluate and appreciate the role of science and technology in the twenty-first century.
		6.2	Discuss the major global scientific issues.
		6.3	Evaluate some of the adverse technology impacts on environment and society.

VI.5 Description of the General Requirements Unit

As seen in Table (2), there are 11 courses (33 credit hours) in the General Requirements Unit at AU. The program courses are distributed as follows:

1: Mandatory courses which comprise 8 main courses (24 C.H.) focusing on the development of Islamic values and consolidation of basic and advanced skills such as effective communication skills in Arabic and English, skills in employing technology, critical and creative thinking, and general psychology .

2: Elective courses (9 C.H.). The elective courses are divided into three groups. Students study one course of each group.

Group 1: This group has four courses. The main theme of this group is to develop the local, national and global aspects of the student's personality and character.

Group 2: This group is known as the group of Arts and Cultural group. It includes three courses: Science and life; Muslims' contribution to sciences and arts, and contemporary civilizations.

Group 3: This group is known as the group of Twenty-First century skills. It includes courses in self assessment, time management and leadership and team work.

The General Requirements Unit at AU is not confined to the first year in the University. It extends over the years of study as it is integrated with the programs of specialization. As seen in Table (4), six program courses are offered at the second level, three courses are offered at the third level and one course at the fourth level. Also, the goals of the General Requirements Unit are not confined to the program courses. They are partly accomplished through all of the specialized programs.

The General Requirements Unit at the AU focuses on the development of skills in addition to values and attitudes through the content which is designed to serve these objectives and not only knowledge for its own sake.

Table (2) the AU General Requirements Unit

1. General Education Requirements (Courses (33 C.H.))

1. Compulsory Courses (24 C.H)

Code	Course	C.H	Semester	Prerequisite	Language
GNE102	Effective Communication in Arabic	3	1,2	-	A
GNE103	Effective Communication in English (1)	3	1,2	-	E
GNE104	Effective Communication in English (2)	3	1,2	GNE103	E
GNE111	Thinking Skills	3	1,2	-	E
GNE112	Islamic Culture	3	1,2	-	A/E
GNE115	General Psychology	3	1,2	-	E
GNE120	Computer Literacy	3	1,2	-	E
GNE211	Science and Life	3	1,2	-	E
Total		24 C.H		-	

2. Elective courses (9 C.H)

Students study one course from each group

a) Society and Civilization Elective Group (3 C.H.)

Code	Course	C.H	Semester	Prerequisite	Language
GNE224	Ethical Awareness	3	1,2	-	E
GNE241	Individual & Society	3	1,2	-	E
GNE252	Arab Society	3	1,2	-	A/E
GNE392	Environmental Awareness	3	1,2	-	E

b) Arts and Cultural (3 C.H)

Code	Course	C.H	Semester	Prerequisite	Language
GNE240	Research Skills	3	1,2	-	E
GNE298	Muslims' Contribution to Arts and Science	3	1,2	-	A/E
GNE397	Contemporary Civilizations	3	1,2	-	E

c) 21st Century Skills Elective Group (3 C.H)

Code	Course	C.H	Semester	Prerequisite	Language
GNE251	Self Assessment	3	1,2	-	E
GNE292	Time Management	3	1,2	-	E
GNE396	Leadership and Team Work	3	1,2	-	E

VI.6 Description of the General Education Courses

GNED 102 Effective Communication in Arabic

3 C.H.

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes the process and skill of constructing a focused, logical, coherent well approved thesis. Emphasis is on the role of verbal (spoken and written) dimensions in the communication process and applying critical listening. The course focuses on an overview of the principles and practices of interpersonal communications and the construction informative and persuasive conversations with an individual and speeches to a group.

GNED 103 Effective Communication in English 1

3 C.H.

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes the mechanics, grammar and sentence and paragraph structure in English. Students will learn the techniques of critical listening in the lab and in the class.

GNED 104 Effective Communication in English 2

3 C.H.

Prerequisite: GNED 103

Emphasis is on the process and skill of constructing a focused, logical, coherent well supported idea. The role of verbal, spoken and written dimensions in the communication process is emphasized within the application of critical listening. The content of the course focuses on an overview of the principles and practices of interpersonal communication and constructing informative and persuasive conversations with an individual and speeches to a group.

GNED 111 Thinking Skills

3 C.H.

Prerequisite: None

Introduction to the techniques for analyzing and evaluating information on everyday experience. The functions of language will be discussed. Techniques for judging the strengths of arguments and the probable truth of the argument: premises will be examined.

GNED 112 Islamic Culture

3 C.H.

Prerequisite: None

Explores the central questions about the essence of Islam. Course topics may include pillars of Islam, faith in God and the role of Islam in the daily life and the solutions Islam provides for social, psychological and environmental problems.

General Psychology: (GNED 115)

3 C.H

This course introduces students to the principles of psychology. It covers branches of psychology, human development, human behavior and the factors influencing behavior in various aspects of life, sensing, perception, learning, memory, emotions and motivation. Personality and psychological disorder are also discussed.

GNET 120 Computer Literacy**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to various computer concepts. Students will have the opportunity to use the computer to manage files-storing, editing and printing-and make presentations. Students will learn to create, edit and present documents using various programs, such as Ms Word, EXCELL, and Power Point.

GNET 211 Science and Life**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

This course connects science (Chemistry, Physics and Biology) with human body and life activities. It describes the relationship between elements and the living cells, and the defaults that might appear due to inherited genes.

GNET 240 Research Skills -Cornerstone Course**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

The course will emphasize the process of constructing a focused, logical coherent thesis. The students will employ research and formal documentation to produce a paper written appropriately to meet its purpose, audience and occasion. The course also emphasizes editing for clarity. Instruction in research and writing includes critical analysis of primary and secondary sources through a series of reading and writing assignments.

GNET 298 Muslims' Contribution to Arts and Sciences**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to introduce students to the contributions of Muslims to arts and sciences. It represents a survey of the major contributions in the Islamic history that deal with Arts: literature, history, law, philosophy, sociology, music, libraries, architecture, painting, ceramics, textile, carpet weaving and calligraphy. The course will also cover the outstanding contribution of Muslims to sciences; geography, astronomy, medical sciences, natural sciences, chemistry, physics, mathematics and others. The course will include brief biographies of some Muslim scholars who contributed to knowledge in the Islamic world, and who made certain scientific discoveries long before their counterparts in other regions of the world.

GNET 224 Ethical Awareness**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

Introducing main concepts of ethics and ethical standards, including those related to the job, personal, institutional and social values. Skills such as talking and making decisions, accepting the other, privacy and responsibility will be exercised. The course also emphasizes modern ethics with attention to contemporary modern problems.

GNEED 241 Individual and Society**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

Exploration of the relationship between us as individuals and society, the course examines major contributors to the social science tradition including Ibn-khaldoun, Freud, Mead, etc. Issues of personal and family relations, occupational aspiration, political organization, personal discipline and religious commitment are examined. Emphasis will be on personal identity and citizen leadership. Social influence and ethical behavior are considered.

GNEED 252 Arab Society**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

An investigation of the Arab society, its characteristics, historical roots and current problems. Family structure, notes of individuals, social mobility, political structures are among the issues addressed in the course.

GNEED 392 Environmental Awareness**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

Students are introduced to the earth system. They will explore the relationship between humans and earth, how humans are part of earth, dependent on it, impacting it and responding to its variability. The course consists of four major focus areas: biodiversity, pollution, population and resources. Within each major focus area the course shall explore how change has and is occurring at the local, regional and global scales. It focuses on how and why humans are being a part of the environment and how this has varied over time and space, analyzes different approaches to decision-making about environmental issues and examines the notes of population growth, energy consumption, technology culture and institution and how these are causing and resolving contemporary environmental problems.

GNEED 397 Contemporary Civilizations**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

An introduction to world's contemporary civilization, their origin and history. Students are given a clear understanding of the economic, social and political systems in each civilization. Achievements of civilizations such as Japanese, Chinese, European, and American are explored.

GNEED 251 Self-Assessment**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

An exploration of concepts, theories and techniques related to the self. Student will be allowed to express strengths and weaknesses in order to develop realistic sense of the self. Determinism vs. freedom will be explored as well as the concept of motivation and self-efficiency.

GNEED 292 Time Management**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

The objective of this course is to provide students with skills and techniques for efficient management of time. Topics include how to measure the use of time, how to set goals related to the use of time, how to prioritize work tasks. The course focuses on teaching students on how to set strategies to increase productivity without working harder or longer, to focus on high pay-off activities, to eliminate time-wasting behavior and to overcome procrastination in the workplace.

GNEED 396 Leadership and Team Work**3 C.H.**

Prerequisite: None

Introducing main concepts of leadership and team-work. Topics include group dynamics, cooperative learning, setting realistic objectives and identifying means to achieve them, roles, group diversity and cohesion, conflict management.