

Magandang umaga po sa lahat. Maraming salamat po sa panahon na inyong inilaan upang makinig sa ating mga tagapagsalita ngayong araw.

Under its Charter of 2008 or RA 9500, UP is mandated to perform its unique and distinctive leadership in higher education and development. This mandate includes:

“...leading in setting academic standards and initiating innovations in teaching, research, and faculty development in philosophy, the arts and humanities, the social sciences, engineering, natural sciences, mathematics, and technology; and maintain(ing) centers of excellence in these disciplines and professions... UP is further mandated to serve as a graduate university by providing advanced studies and specialization for scholars, scientists, writers, artists, and professionals especially those who serve on the faculty of state and private colleges and universities... It also serves as a research university in various fields of expertise and specialization by conducting basic and applied research, promoting research and development, and contributing to the dissemination and application of knowledge... UP serves as a leader in public service and (extension work) by providing various forms of community, public and volunteer service, as well as scholarly and technical assistance to the government, the private sector, and civil society while maintaining its standards of excellence.”

In fulfilling UP’s mandate, it is important that its course offerings are quality assured, regularly reviewed and updated, and whenever possible, shared with our colleagues from SUCs and LUCs. This Linangan series is an innovative way of sharing our General Education or GE courses with you. We started with Teach Talk on *Kasaysayan ng Pilipinas* held last September 6, and today, we shall listen to another talk on *Understanding the Self*.

Per the UP Diliman Faculty Manual, “the General Education program is a mix of subjects... that gives students knowledge and competencies that will better prepare them for the basic understanding of the various ways of knowing. This makes students well-rounded persons ready for lifelong learning skills.” It states further that “the liberal education thrust of GE aims to mold the student to becoming a holistic person, a more independent, creative and critical thinker, a morally sound and intellectual individual of high integrity, and well able to adapt to the fast changing pace of today’s living.” This program has continuously provided our students with a *broad perspective* that enables them to engage with issues within and outside their own field of specialization.

Today's webinar, *Understanding the Self*, is a timely activity as we iteratively navigate towards another academic year. It is important to know who we are, who our students are and where our students and faculty are coming from especially now that the country is confronted with a lot of challenges. Understanding the self gives us a glimpse of the different aspects of our lives as social, political, and economic beings, and these will be explained to us today by our distinguished resource persons.

Let me thank Professor Josephine Dionisio and Professor Rosanne Marie Echivarre for being with us today. What you are about to share today will be an important guide to understanding the self and others, and to facing the semesters ahead. Let me also thank the General Education Center (GEC) Director Professor Nancy Kimuell-Gabriel, the staff of GEC for helping organize today's webinar, and our colleagues from the SUCs and LUCs for participating in today's webinar.

Sana po ay marami tayong matutuhan ngayong umaga. Marami pong salamat at manatili po tayong ligtas.