



**Department of English and Humanities**

**HST 103: History of Bangladesh**

**Summer 2025**

**Course Faculty:**

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**Consultation Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Tuesday from 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM**

**Rationale:**

History 103 is an introductory course on the roots of Bangladesh beginning from prehistory to the current era. It presents history as a process that has produced its triumphs and challenges and how people met the same. As a background study of the present, it provides the platform for gaining an insight in the historical causes that influence the rise and nature of the state. It's the mother course for topics that relate to Bangladesh.

**Course Aims:**

This course aims to educate students on the key processes, factors and milestones that have influenced the formation of current Bangladesh. It will directly contribute to the students in their

professional pursuits as decisions and interaction with any social segments is based on historical roots.

A study of history is essential as it helps recognize the factors which shape the value system, political structure and social architecture on which Bangladesh is constructed. Thus a study of history leads to more efficient methods to achieve professional objectives. Effective citizenship is directly produced by historical knowledge of the producing systems of the state and society.

### **Specific Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the semester students will be able to:

1. Examine the roots of socio-economic behavior patterns, the nature of identity seeking, collective aspirations and branding of public products that motivate people to seek progress and build societies.
2. Identify the historical experiences that act as principal inspirations of resilience and ultimately flourishing and the causes behind it including links to the present trends.
3. Analyze history as a narrative of challenge and response over time and in chronological order to understand how people demonstrate their capacity to meet such challenges.
4. Explain the history of Bangladesh in the framework of exclusion, inclusion and synthesis of various social and collective ideas and forces to develop the practices of social health and stability.
5. Demonstrate research skills using historical data, critical analysis and Southern systems of knowledge making and critique.

### **Format and Procedures:**

The course is structured into topics as indicated in the course plan. It will consist of class lectures conducted using PowerPoint slides and accessing paper and digital materials. Students are expected to take detailed notes during the lectures to incorporate them into their assigned readings to connect the ideas and concepts discussed in the class with the various readings in different formats. Together they will become interactive debates on the state of the present with critical links to the past.

### **My stance:**

The objective of the tutor is to introduce history as a process rather than events that are produced by multiple factors such as environment, geography, political events, community identity, faith practices etc. It will focus on a diversity of influences and factors rather than a monolithic narrative of any kind, social, political, or ideological.

## **Course Assessment Methods:**

### **Quizzes**

Two **quizzes** (one before and the other after the **midterm exam**) will be given throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of short notes and/or broad essay-type questions on specified topics. Students will be graded out of 15 marks.

### **Midterm**

The midterm exam will take place during the midterm week. The questions will consist of short notes and/or broad essay-type questions on all the topics **taught to date**. The midterm will be graded out of 20 marks.

### **Class presentation**

Students will be divided into small groups and assigned topics for oral presentation. The presentations will be held towards the end of the semester. Further instructions and guidelines will be provided in class. The presentations will be graded out of 15 marks.

### **Final exam**

The final examination will take place in final exam week. A review class will be held prior to that. Students will be required to refer to the suggested readings in order to answer the questions properly. Scripts will be graded out of 30 marks.

### **Required readings:**

- (a) *A History of Bangladesh*, Willem Van Schendel.
- (b) *Bangladesh National Culture and Heritage: An Introductory Reader*, A.F. Salahuddin Ahmed, and Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, eds.
- (c) *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, political Economy*, Sugata Bose and Aesha Jalal
- (d) *1971: A Global History of the Creation of Bangladesh*, Srinath Raghavan
- (e) Relevant articles in *Banglapedia*, and *Encyclopedia Britannica*

## **Course Assessment Components:**

Attendance (5%)

Two Quizzes (15X2)	(30%)
Midterm	(20%)
Class presentation	(15%)
Final	(30%)

### Course Topics

Topic
<b>T 1. T 1. Introduction and Overview</b>
<b>T2. Environment and Geographical Features of Bengal</b>
<b>T3. Periodization: Ancient period</b>
<b>T4. Periodization: Medieval and Modern Periods</b>
<i>Quiz 1 (2-4)</i>
<b>T5. Syncretism in the Medieval Period</b>
<b>T6. Famines in Bengal (The Great Famine of 1770)</b>
<b>T7. Famines in Bengal</b>
<i>Midterm week (Syllabus T 2 to T 7)</i>
<b>T 8. Permanent settlement</b>
<b>T 9 Peasant resistance in Bengal</b>

<b>T 10. From Turk-Afghan to British Supremacy (Conflict Framework)</b>
<b>T 11. Rise of the Muslim middle-class in Bengal</b>
<i>Quiz 2 (T8 -T 11)</i>
<b>T 12. Partition of Bengal 1905</b>
<b>T 13. The Road to Partition of British India</b>
<b>T 14. Rise of Bengali Nationalism under Pakistan</b>
<b>T 15. Liberation War of Bangladesh (Part One)</b>
<b>T 16. Liberation War of Bangladesh (Part Two)</b>
<b>Series of class presentations (2/3 class hours)</b>
<b>Final review</b>

Ø **Plagiarism:** All students must abide by the BRAC University Code of Academic Integrity. All assignments submitted by students must be their own work. Copying from another student or from published, unpublished, or electronic sources without appropriate citations or quotations is considered plagiarism.

Any evidence of plagiarism will lead to an automatic “F” (fail) for all concerned students. In other words, if there is any evidence of plagiarism, ALL students involved will automatically receive a zero grade. According to university policy, all cases of plagiarism are reported to the Office of Academic Standards. The penalty for violating this code can lead to a failing grade in the course and further disciplinary action by the university.

### **Grading Policies:**

Students’ grades will be assigned in accordance with the guidelines and grading scale of the BRAC University Undergraduate Study and Examinations Regulations.

