



North South University

Department of History & Philosophy

HIS103: **Emergence of Bangladesh**

Course Instructor: S. M. Ali Reza, *PhD* (SAR3)

Spring 2022

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Course Outline¹

Course Contents:

This course provides insightful information and analysis about Bangladesh's origins and socio-economic and political backgrounds with which learners might have been otherwise less familiar. The study attempts to clarify methodological confusion, gaps, and problems connected to Bangladesh's political history through a pleasant, coherent, and objective analysis with a new outlook and perspective. It covers three phases of Bangladesh history: (i) the long anti-colonial struggle from 1757 to 1905, (ii) the scuffles of the Bengali Muslims under the Congress-led politics during 1905-'47 (iii) the rise of anti-Pakistani identity politics and regional autonomy movement during 1948-'71. The distinctive impacts of the Bengal Renaissance in the Bengali Hindu and Muslim societies from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries are also discussed here objectively. The study also illustrates how the Indian help, blended with the Indo-Pak hostility, intertwined the autonomy movement in 1969 for creating an independent Bangladesh in December 1971. Above all, the course emphasizes the heroic role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other stalwarts in creating a nation-state through a nine-month-long war with the Indo-Soviet active support. Topics are presented in a thematic order to give a complete understanding of the backgrounds of Bangladesh's creation, not providing just a birds-eye view.

Learning Outcome:

The present course allows students to grasp the long-standing struggles of the people of Bangladesh for building a nation-state from 1757 to 1971. Students learn from this course about colonial plundering and revenue earning from the regional drug trade, the Great Famine of 1770, the British Divide and Rule Policy, the Uprising of 1857, etc. The course focuses on how the Congress paranoia, fear factors, and deprivations influenced the Bengali Muslims to join the Pakistan creation movement during 1940-'47. Then, students learn what led the Bengali vernacular elites to mobilize public opinion for launching a linguistic campaign in East Bengal in 1952 and then the Six-Point movement in 1966. It helps students recognize their national identity to boost their self-esteem and patriotism for becoming worthy citizens. It would aid

¹ This course outline is developed mostly based on the 'Blueprint Course Outline' suggested by the honorable DHP Chair Prof. Dr. Emdadul Haq in the previous semester.

them to know their throbbing national history and recognize current realities for crafting a prosperous Bangladesh in the 21st century.

Teaching and Learning Method:

During the ongoing (New Normal) pandemic situation the classes will be held virtually. Therefore, students are strongly recommended to attend their classes regularly, and provide maximum participation. This will help us feel connected. More than two absences and repeated delay in classes without any valid reason may affect one's grade.

Marks Distribution²:

Class Attendance & Participation	10%	80% Class attendance is mandatory
Quiz Tests (best two scores))	20%	To be announced by the Faculty
Mid-term based on exploratory questions	20%	To be held on the 12 th Class
Assignment/ presentation	10%	To be announced by the faculty
Viva-voce	10%	By the end of the Semester
Final exam. based on exploratory questions	30%	Date to be announced by the NSU authority
TOTAL		100

Grading System:

Numerical Scores	Letter Grade	Grade Points	Numerical Scores	Letter Grade	Grade Points
93 and above	A Excellent	4.0	90 - 92	A-	3.7
87 - 89	B+	3.3	83 - 86	B Good	3.0
80 - 82	B-	2.7	77 - 79	C+	2.3
73 - 76	C Average	2.0	70 - 72	C-	1.7
67 - 69	D+	1.3	60 - 66	D Poor	1.0
Below 60	F* Failure	0.0	Incomplete	I	0.0
Withdrawal	W	0.0	Retaken	R	0.0

Roadmap:

Session 1: Introductory Outline: Introduction to Bangladesh History

Session 2: Foundation of British Rule in India: Battle of Palashi for Drug Money.

Recommended Movie: *Nawab Seraj ud Dowla.*

Session 3: Consolidating the Authority of the Company Raj: Colonial Drug Trade & the British Land Revenue Policy (Permanent Settlement policy) of 1793.

Session 4: Anti-British Rebellions and Uprisings in Bengal: The Revolt of 1857 (The First War of Independence). **Recommended Movie:** *Mangal Pandey.*

² Marks distributions may vary if the pandemic situation gets normal, and the NSU authority resumes on campus lectures.

Session 5: Bengal Hindu Renaissance: Reformation movement in the Bengali Hindu Society, & the foundation of All India Congress Party in 1885.

Session 6: Bengal Muslim Renaissance: The Aligarh Movement & the foundation of All India Muslim League in 1906. **(QUIZ-I)**

Session 7: The Partition of Bengal plan and its annulment 1905-1911: the communal divide of the Bengali community & consequences in the Indian politics

Session 8: Lahore Resolution of 1940: Road to Independence & the dilemmas of the Bengali Muslim leadership.

Session 9: The Great Divide of 1947: Political Background of the Partition of India in 1947.
Recommended Movie: Gandhi

Session 10: Foundation of the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League in 1949 & the Bengali identity politics.

Session 11: The Language Movement of 1952: rise of Bengali nationalism. **Recommended Movie: Fagun Haway**

Session 12: United Front Elections in 1954, & the role of (Bangabandhu) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. **(QUIZ-II)**

Session 13: Problems of Constitution Making in Pakistan, and the 1956 Constitution.

Session 14: **Midterm Exam.**

Session 15: Presidential autocracy of Ayub Khan: Basic Democracies, the rise of authoritarian government & the Constitution of 1962.

Session 16: Six-Point Movement for Provincial Autonomy.

Session 17: Agartala Conspiracy Case (1968), the Mass Upsurge of 1969, & the fall of Ayub regime.

Session 18: The General Elections of 1970, its results and consequences in subsequent politics of Pakistan.

Session 19: 7 March Speech of *Bangabandhu*, Non-cooperation Movement to Operation Searchlight. **(QUIZ-III)**

Session 20: Cold War Politics and the role of big powers in the War of Liberation
Recommended Movie: Guerrilla

Session 21: Mujibnagar Government & the War of Liberation/ Women in the War of Liberation.

Session 22: Pakistan's ultimate failure in national integration, end of 24 years' internal colonialism and the emergence of Bangladesh (December 16, 1971).

Session 23: Viva-voce 1

Session 24: Viva-voce 2

Session 25: **Final Examination**

Suggested Readings:

1. Ahmed, Sharif U. ed. (2021) Bangabandhu and Bangladesh, Dhaka: University Press Ltd.
2. Chakrabarty, B., (2004) The Partition of Bengal and Assam, 1932-1947: Contour of Freedom. London: Routledge.
3. Chowdhury, G. W. (1974) The Last Days of United Pakistan, London: C Hurst & Co.
4. Haq, M. Emdadul (2019), Colonial Drug Trade in South Asia: from Palashi to Partition, Dhaka: Century Publications, 2nd edition.
5. Haq, M. Emdadul (2000), Drugs in South Asia: From the Opium Trade to the Present Day, London: Palgrave Macmillan & New York: St. Martin's Press.
6. Hudson, H V (1986) The Great Divide: Britain-India-Pakistan, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
7. Islam, Sirajul ed. (2010), History of Bangladesh 1704-1971, Volume 3, Dhaka: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.
8. Jahan, Rounaq (1994) Jahan, Pakistan: Failure in National Integration Dhaka: The University Press Limited.
9. Rahman, Sheikh Mujibur (2012) The Unfinished Memoirs, translated by Dr. Fakrul Alam, Dhaka: Penguin Books.
10. Rashid, Harun-Or (1987) The Foreshadowing of Bangladesh: Bengal Muslim League and Muslim Politics, 1936-1947, Dhaka: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

Note: Students will receive relevant articles, book chapters, slides, audio-videos and recorded lectures from time to time for consultation.

Have A Great Semester!