

Department of Economics
Course Outline of GEN-226
Summer Semester-2024
Course Title: Emergence of Bangladesh
Credit: 03
Prerequisites: ENG 102

Instructor: Ashit Boran Paul (DABP), e-mail: ashit.paul@ewubd.edu

Section: 7 MW: 8.00AM-10.30AM, Room- 212

Office hours: 1.20PM-4.30PM

Room No.-

Section: 15 MW: 10.40AM-1.10PM, Room-212

MW-Monday-Wednesday

Course Description

The main objective of this course is to make students aware of the history of the emergence of independent Bangladesh. The course will highlight the spirit of independence for inspiring the students to uphold that spirit without compromise. The present generation should be sensitized about the sacrifice of many in snatching the independence.

The course includes the following:

Background: The colonial rule through “divide and rule”. The politics of revivalism of religious nationalism by both Hindus and Muslims. Lucknow pact, Khilafat movement, Bengal pact, Jinnah’s two-nation theory, Partition of India

Disillusionment: Question of state language. Response of the Bengali intelligentsia. Disparity and emergence of the notion: “one state two economies”. Consolidation of power by the Punjab dominated military and civil bureaucracy. Deprivation and economic exploitation of 56% by 44%.

Movements: Language movement 1948-1952. Movement against the unjust education policy, 1962. The Magna Carta of the *Bengalees*: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib’s six-point program, 1966. “Agartala conspiracy” case and the mass upsurge in 1969. Emergence of Sheikh Mujib as an undisputed leader of the *Bengalees*. 1970 election landslide for the *Bengalees*. Refusal of the Pakistani Junta to hand over power to the democratically elected majority. The 7th March Speech. Formal declaration of independence on the night following 25th March 1971. Liberation War of 1971. Birth of a Nation. 10th April, 1972: The formation of the Government of Independent Bangladesh.

Fight on and off front: Freedom fighters, Sector commanders, Guerilla Groups, Mass participation in war, Women’s participation in the liberation struggle. Participation of ethnic minorities.

State repression and anti liberation activities: Operation search light. Genocides, Mass exodus, Life at refugee camps, Women as war victims, sufferings of children. Arson loot and Destruction, Collaborators, Peace committees, *Rajakar*, *Al-Badar*, *Al Shams*.

The war of independence by the media and in the cultural front: Participation and initiatives in diplomatic, media, sports and cultural front. Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, Akashbani and BBC, British and Indian Newspapers, Concert for Bangladesh, Role of India, Role of foreign governments: USSR and the East European countries. USA, UK, China, Non allied countries. Role of the United Nations.

Course learning outcomes

After completing the course, the students will be able to

- a) Understand the history of the emergence of Bangladesh with insights and focus on the glorious war of liberation at the backdrop of Pakistani colonial rule and the atrocities of occupation forces.
- b) Understand the essence of freedom earned through great sacrifice.
- c) Acquaint themselves with the chronological development of our national history and with the protagonists including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- d) Geographical sovereignty, political independence, economic emancipation, cultural heritage and the right to live without any hindrance. *Bangalee* Nationalism vs Bangladeshi Nationalism. Rising expectation about economic prosperity overnight.

Course Outline

Session 1: Pre-history of the liberation War of Bangladesh

The Uprising of 1857, End of British Raj and the birth of East Bengal in 1947: Colonial policy of divide and rule, Hindu-Muslim pact, Lucknow pact, Bengal pact, Communal Award (1935); Lahore resolution (1940), Two Nation Theory of Jinnah, Impact of 2nd World War, Riots in Calcutta and Noakhali, Victory of Labor Party in UK, Plebiscite of 1946. Cabinet mission plan and its impact, Suhrawardy-Kiron Shankar Roy-Sarat Bose Formula of Greater Bengal.

- **Pakistan at its birth**, political process in Pakistan, role of the first constituent assembly, the grand national convention. Growth of opposition politics: Birth of Awami Muslim League and its significance, East Bengal Estate Acquisition Act, 1950
- The word 'PAKISTAN' stands for P=Punjab, A=Afghan (frontier), K= Kashmir, I= Indus and STAN=Baluchistan. No place for East Bengal
- **Language movement (1948-52):** Rise of Bengali nationalism, reaction of West Pakistan and central Government.
- **Economic deprivation:** Centre's refusal to implement the Krug Missions recommendation for flood control in Bangladesh. The golden fiber jute and its tragedy. Shifting of capital from Karachi to Rawalpindi and then again to Islamabad.
- **Provincial election of 1954 and constitutional crisis:** Formation of United Front, the defeat and decline of Muslim League in East Bengal through election of 1954. The failure of the constitution of 1956 in addressing the grievances of East Bengal. Kagmari conference – the emergence of National Awami Party. Consolidation of the military power in the central government of Pakistan.
- **First Martial Law (1958) and the Ayub Decade:** Basic democracy, 1962 constitution, student movement, presidential election 1964, Monaem Khan era in East Pakistan (1962-1968), 1964 state sponsored communal disturbances designed to create division between Hindus and Muslims. Disparity, discrimination and repression by the centre.

FIRST MID TERM:

Recommended readings:

1. Rahman, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur (2012). *Asomapta Atmajiboni (Unfinished Memoirs)*: University Press Limited, Dhaka
2. Rahman, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur: *Karagarer Rojnamcha*, University Press Limited, Dhaka, 2017
3. Harun-or-Rashid (2007), A move for united independent Bengal - In Sirajul Islam (Ed.), *History of Bangladesh (1704 – 1971), Political History*, Dhaka, Asiatic society of Bangladesh, pages: 311-327
4. Kamal Ahmed (2009), *State against the nation: The decline of the Muslim League I pre-independence Bangladesh, 1947-1954*, Dhaka, UPL, page 205-232

Session 2: Background of liberation war of Bangladesh

- **Indo-Pak war (1965):** Self realization of East Pakistan leaders, crisis: social-economical-political and cultural discriminations, strong student movements since 1962. Cultural awakening after the ban on the centenary celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore in 1961. Contemporary literature: reflection of society.
- **Economy has been always the core issue of upsurge of Nationalism:** Drain of resources from the east to west, “one state two economies”, discrimination in both private and public sector investment, the role of finance commission 1961, realization of “Neo-colonial domination”
- **Beginning of new struggle:** Six-point movement launched by Sheikh Mujib in 1966, Six-point program, Agartala conspiracy case. Mass upsurge of 1969 and emergence of great charismatic leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; Movement of self rule begins, quest of greater autonomy, “Bangabandhu and his speech has become the voice of East Pakistan”.
- **1970 general election:** Basic principles vs one man one vote under LFO. Victory of Bengali nationalistic power; Conspiracy by West Pakistani military-bureaucratic-colonial axis against sharing power, Role of Bhutto. Analysis of the election landslide of the Bangalees in 1970.
- Historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu in effect declaring independence: providing the future direction and strategy of imminent war; non-cooperation movement starts; Peoples unity and a nation in the making. Historic 7th March Speech is the part of UNESCO’s world heritage.
- **Genocide of 25th March 1971** under code ‘Operation Searchlight’; Declaration of Independence by Bangabandhu at early hours of 26th March, 1971. Formal declaration of Independence of Bangladesh by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Plea for global recognition and assistance.

SECOND MID TERM:

Recommended readings:

1. Kamruddin Ahmed, *A social History of East Pakistan*
2. Syed Humayun, *Sheikh Mujib’s six-point formula: an analytical study of Break-up of Pakistan*
3. A Tale of Millions by Major (Rtd) Rafiqul Islam
4. Witness to Surrender by Major Siddiq Salek, UPL, 1997
5. Sengupta, Nitish, *Bengal Divided: The Unmarking of A Nation, 1905-1971*
6. Mascarenhas, Anthony (1986), *A Legacy of Blood*, Hodder and Stoughton, London and others

Session 3: Liberation War in 1971

- **'Proclamation of Independence'** on April 10, 1971; Bangladesh Government at Mujib Nagar: Justification of creating exile government headed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (in absenting) but led on his behalf by Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam and Tajuddin Ahmed; Waging full-scale war against the occupying forces; State policies and war strategies adopted. Role and contributions of Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed. Mushtaq-Mahbub Alam Chashi conspiracy (a) no confidence on the Tajuddin Government and (b) in the name of a federal government in Pakistan for 'saving Bangabandhu's life'.
- **Creation of freedom fighters:** Guerilla warfare; 11 sectors created, Organized resistance *Mukti Foj/Mukti Bahini BLF, Mujib Bahini*.
- **The peoples' war:** Participation of students, women, common people, genocides of common people and planned cleansing of minorities and rapes and atrocities against women by Pakistanis, War and women, Mass exodus of 10 million people to India, etc; Intrigues and indifference Pakistani political, cruelties and conspiracy of Pakistani military leaders like Yahia Khan, Tikka Khan, Rao Farman Ali, AAK Niazi, Khadim Hossain Raja and so on.
- **Role of media during the liberation war:** War of diplomacy and public opinion created throughout the world especially in Europe and America; Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, *Mukti Shangrami Shilpi Shangstha*, foreign media BBC and *Akashvani*; newspapers and worldwide public opinion; Concert for Bangladesh at Madison Square Garden, New York by Gorge Harrison, Ravi Shankar, etc. Usage of cultural weaponry.
- **Role of India and Big Powers:** Role of Indira Gandhi and Central Government of India, USSR, USA, China, Britain and other countries concerned; Pro-Pakistan role of the then US President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.
- **Anti-liberation activities:** Peace committee, Al-Badar, Al-Shams, *Rajakar Bahini*, killing of intellectuals, Trail of Bangabandhu in custody in West Pakistan and world reactions.
- **Formation of joint forces and final victory:** Guerilla warfare inside the country, Border skirmishes escalates to major military campaigns, final push. Victory and Mass surrender of Pakistanis on 16 December 1971; A new nation appeared; Bangabandhu's arrival at his free homeland on January 10 – beginning of a new Journey.

FINAL EXAMINATION:

Recommended readings:

1. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2. Blood, Archer K (2004), *The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh*, OPL Publications
3. The Constitution of People's Republic of Bangladesh
4. Khasru, B.Z, *Myths and Facts/Bangladesh Liberation War (How India, US, China and The USSR shaped the outcome)*
5. Jacob, JFR (Lt. Gen.) (1997), *Surrender at Dhaka*, University Press Ltd.
6. Muhit, A M A (1996), *American Response to Bangladesh Liberation War*, Dhaka, UPL Publishers
7. Schendel, Willem Van (2009), *A History of Bangladesh*, Cambridge University Press
8. White House Papers
9. Jahanara Imam (1990), *Of blood and fire, the untold story of Bangladesh's war of independence*

Additional readings:

1. Harun-or-Rashid, *The foreshadowing of Bangladesh*, UPL, Dhaka
2. Raunaq Jahan, *Pakistan: Failure in National Integration*, Columbia University Press, 1972
3. Moudud Ahmed, *Bangladesh: Constitutional quest for autonomy, 1950-71*
4. Badruddin Umar (2007), *The emergency of Bangladesh*
5. M. Niaz Asadullah, Antonio Savoia and Wahiuddin Mahmud (2014), *Paths to Development: Is there a Bangladesh Surprise?* Working Paper, World Development, Vol.62, pp 138-154
6. Ahmed, Salahuddin, *Bangladesh Past and Present*
7. Maniruzzaman, Talukder (1997), *The Bangladesh Revolution and its Aftermath*, Bangladesh Books International Limited

Marks Distribution

Attendance and class participation	5%	
Quizzes/ Class Test	15 %	Best three will be counted out of four
Mid-Sem assessment	25%	To be held on the 10 th -11 th Class
Term Paper/Project Formulation	20%	To be held on the 13 th -15 th Class
Final Exam	35%	Date to be announced by the EWU authority

EWU Grading System from Fall 2023

Numerical Scores	Letter Grade	Grade Points
80% and above	A+	4.00
75% to less than 80%	A	3.75
70% to less than 75%	A-	3.50
65% to less than 70%	B+	3.25
60% to less than 65%	B	3.00
55% to less than 60%	B-	2.75
50% to less than 55%	C+	2.50
45% to less than 50%	C	2.25
40% to less than 45%	D	2.00
Less than 40%	F	0.00

Cautions:

- (i) students are expected to **attend all classes**; any student expecting reasonable absence in the class consult the course teacher in advance; a student who misses a class is not excused from his/her obligations to the course teacher.
- (ii) makeup/retake examination/assignments are not allowed;
- (iii) cheating in examination by any means, copying from another student's paper, plagiarism, or any other sort of **academic dishonesty may cause an F grade in the course**.
- (iv) Students are advised to **check the university policies** relevant to courses, examinations, and academic honesty.
