

*NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY*  
Spring-2016  
HIST-101                      Section -3  
Department of History and Philosophy  
Title: *Bangladesh: Culture & Heritage*  
Course Teacher: ASz (Dr. A K M Shahnawaz)  
Office: NAC 1040,  
Lecture Days: MW  
Office hour: 09:00-09:30 AM & 11:20am-12:50 PM

**Lecture schedule, course objectives**

1. Class-1

**Course Introduction**

2. Class-2

**Importance of the study of Cultural heritage of Bangladesh and its Sources**

3. Class-3

**Land and the People of Bangladesh**

Origin of the name of the 'Bengal', Geographical Boundaries, Physical Features, Geographical Divisions according to the position of its rivers, General natural conditions, People and Races, Origin of the People of Bengal, Pre Aryan People, Aryanisation, People under the Palas, Arabian settlement, South Indian blood, Ad-mixture of Medieval People

4. Class-4

**General introduction of the Historical chronology of Bangladesh and the notes on Prehistoric and ancient Archaeological Sites**

Definition and explanation of the Pre-historic Bangladesh, Ancient Bangladesh, Medieval Bangladesh, Colonial Bangladesh, Introduction to archaeological sites and heritage of ancient Bangladesh, Pre-historic sites, Ancient sites, Archaeological evidences in Mahasthangarh, Pahapur Bihara, Buddhist monasteries in North Bengal, Archaeological Sites at Mainamati, Bharat Bhaina, Wari-Bateshwar.

5. Class-5

**General introduction about Archaeological Sites in Bangladesh: Medieval Period**

Sultanate Sites: a. Sonargoan region, b. Greater Rajshahi Region, c. Barobazar region (Jhenaidah), d. Bagerhat region. Mughal Sites: Dhaka and its surroundings.

6. Class-6

**General Introduction about Archaeological sites in Bangladesh: Colonial period**

Colonial Sites: Dhaka- Mosques, Imambara, Churches, Palaces (Dhaka and outside of Dhaka), Official buildings, Panamnagar, Pabna, Rajshahi, Jessore, Khulna, Temple architecture, Deuls and Dolmanchas.

7. Class-7

**Ancient Bengal (Bangladesh)– Religion.**

From the Gupta period we have written records in the form of epigraphs and literature which contain information on the history of the 'region' of Bengal.

Main features of the early religious ideas of the aborigine people of Bangladesh, Buddhism and Hinduism in Bangladesh.

8. Class-8

**Ancient Bengal (Bangladesh)– Sculpture, Architecture and Terracotta Art**

Ancient Architecture, Secular architecture, Religious architecture: a. Stupa, b. Vihara, Sculpture: a. Early stone sculpture, c. Gupta sculpture, d. Paharpur sculptures, e. Post-Gupta sculpture, Terracotta Art: 1. Terracotta plaques, 2. Terracotta figurines.

**Mid-term Examination-1**

9. Class-9

**Medieval Bengal— a. Rise of Islam in Bengal, b. Rise of Muslim Power in Bengal**

The history of medieval Bengal is the history of Muslim rule in Bengal. The arrival of Muslims in Bengal and their long rule stirred the country's society and culture to a great extent. Rise of Islam in Bengal is connected with the entrance and development of Islam in India. Islam spread in Bengal mainly in four ways. There are some cases of forceful conversion in the history of India, but these incidents occurred only locally and separately. No evidence has been received about any Muslim Sultan who undertook any comprehensive measures to convert the Hindus to Islam. The trend of arrival of Islam in this country unavoidably added a new dimension to the establishment of Muslim power and development of society.

10. Class-10

**Mystic Religious Practice—Sufism**

Definition of the Mystic Religious Philosophy, Sufi order, Sufi activities, Sufi influence on society, culture, religion and politics.

11. Class-11

**Mystic Religious Practice—Neo-Vaishnava Movement**

Nature of the Neo Vaishnavism or Vaisnava Movement, Activities of the Sri Chaitannaya. Influence of the Neo Vaisnava Movement on society, culture, religion and politics.

12. Class-12

**Education System of ancient and medieval Bengal**

Education of Ancient Bengal: a. Pala period, b. Sena period.

Education of Medieval Bengal: a. Sultanate period, b. Mughal period

13. Class-13

**Art and Architecture of Sultanate Bengal**

The Sultanate Architecture: a. Religious buildings, b. Secular buildings  
c. General Characteristics,

14. Class-14

**Art and Architecture of Mughal Bengal**

The Mughal Architecture: a. Religious buildings,

b. Secular buildings, c. General Characteristics, Terracotta Art

15. Class-15

**Tribal (aborigine) Society and Culture**

There are many tribes in Bangladesh and each tribe has its own unique culture. Some tribes may even have cultural distinctions within their different clans. But some traits are generally common among most tribes. For instance, originally most tribes are animists.

a. Tribal Society of Bangladesh

b. Tribal Culture

16. Class-16

**Folk beliefs and practices in Bangladesh**

Confronted with imagined external hostile forces, early human beings devised magic formula to propitiate those forces and thus save themselves from their evil eyes. Most religions were against magic but yet it survived to haunt superstitious people.

Among Bengali Muslims, Sufi pirs had tremendous influence on their followers who believed that their pirs could save them from the evil eyes of spirits. According to folk belief, all cannot practice in performing some religious rituals. A woman's childlessness is believed to be curable through prayers and visits to holy men and shrines. Though many folk beliefs are gradually losing their hold on the minds of the educated populace, they continue to dominate the lives of the majority of the rural and illiterate population.

17. Class-17

### **Festivals of Bangladesh**

a. Religious Festivals b. Non religious or Secular Festivals

### **Mid-term Examination-2**

18. Class-18

### **Colonial Bengal—a. Christianity, b. Social Reform Movements**

1. Christianity: Origin and development of Christianity in Bengal, Sir William Ceray and his activities.

2. Social Reform movement: a. Hindu Social Reform movement-activities of Raja Rammohun Roy and Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar b. Muslim Social Reform movements- activities of Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan, Nawab Abdul Latif, Hazi Muhammad Muhsin. Sayed Ameer Ali and Hazi Shariat Ullah .

19. Class-19

### **Partition of Bengal and Reactions.**

Causes and the proposal of Partition of Bengal, Hindu reactions: a. Reactions of Hindu press, b. Reactions of Indian National Congress. c. Swadeshi Movement to Boycott, d. Terrorist movement, Reaction of Muslim leader- Foundation of All India Muslim League, Revocation of the Partition of Bengal,

20. Class-20

### **Independence from British Rule and Birth of Pakistan**

Lahore Resolution of 1940: The independence from British rule and Birth of Pakistan as is generally believed, through the Lahore Resolution of 1940. The surgical solution to Hindu-Muslim communal problem of the subcontinent was at last achieved through the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

21. Class-21

### **Language Movement**

Language Movement began in 1948 and reached its climax in the killing of 21 February 1952, and ended in the adoption of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan.

The East Bengal Legislative Assembly adopted a resolution recommending the recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan. The language movement continued until 1956. Since 1952, 21 February has been observed every year to commemorate the martyrs of the Language Movement. With UNESCO adopting a resolution on 17 November 1999 proclaiming 21 February as International Mother Language Day.

22. Class-22

### **Struggle for Autonomy**

Background, Martial Law and the demand of Autonomy, The Anti-Ayub movement, Six-point programme, 'Agartala Conspiracy' case, 'Students Action Committee', 11-point demand, Mass upsurge of 1969,

23. Class-23

### **Birth of Bangladesh**

The War of Liberation began on 26 March 1971 and ended with the liberation of Bangladesh on 16 December 1971. Background, Operation in Dhaka city at midnight of 25 March, Formation of the liberation forces, later named as Mukti Bahini, Formation of exile government called the People's Republic of Bangladesh alias Mujibnagar Government, 'Niomita Bahini' (regular force) and the irregulars were called 'Gono Bahini' (people's Force), The

joint command of the Mukti Bahini and the Indian army, The instrument of surrender was signed at the Ramna Reccourse (now Suhrawardy Uddyan) at one minute past 5 p.m. on 16 December 1971.

24. Class-24

### Feed-back

### Final Examination

### References

- R. C. Majumder (ed.) *The History of Bengal, (Hindu Period), vol. 1, Dacca University, 1963*  
Abdul Karim *Social History of the Muslims in Bengal-Down to AD 1338,*  
Mohammad  
Enamul Haq *A History of Sufi-ism in Bengal Dhaka, 1975*  
M A Rahim *Social and Cultural History of Bengal Vol-1& 11, Karachi, 1963*  
Jadunath Sarkar *The History of Bengal Vol-2*  
Muhammad Abdur Rahim *The Muslim Society and Politic in Bengal, The University of Dacca, 1978*  
A F Salahuddin Ahmed *Bangladesh-National Culture and Heritage, Independent University, Bangladesh, 2004;*  
And B M Chowdhury (ed.) *History of Bangladesh 1704-1971, Dhaka, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh*  
Ave`yj Kwig *evsjvi BwZnvm (myjZvbx Avgj) XvKv, 1977;*  
Gg G iwng *evsjvi mvgvwrK I mvs`<...wZK BwZnvm 1-2LÊ, XvKv, 1982*  
G †K Gg kvnbvIqvR *evsjv`†ki mvs`<...wZK HwZn", XvKv, b†fj cvewjwks nvDm, 2009*

### Learning objectives:

After completion of the course the student should be able to:

- Understanding the glorious past of Bangladesh and the creations of ancestors.
- Understanding the deferent phases of the historical development and the diversity of Cultural trait.
- Know the educational and economical background of Bangladesh.
- Create conception about socio-cultural life of the aborigine people of Bangladesh
- Discuss the heroic movements of the people of Bangladesh.

### Teaching method:

- \*Mainly classroom lecture with multimedia projection
- \*Feedback course discussion with the student
- \* If possible field trip will be arrange to historical and archaeological sites

### Grading Procedure:

There will be two Mid-term Exams based on lectures, notes and required reading. The exams include multiple choice (MCQ), short type or and brief essay type questions. The university will decide the final examination.

### Course Requirement:

Quiz 10, Mid-term-1: 25, Mid-term-2: 25, Class Attendance 05, Final Exam 35, Total-100.

### Notes:

- \* It is student's responsibility to be present for classes, quizzes, mid-terms and final exam.
- \* There is no make-up for mid-terms and final exam.

**Grading policy:** A 93 & above, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76,

C-70-72, D+ 67-69, D 60-66, F below 60.