

**LaGuardia Community College
City University of New York (CUNY)
Department of Education & Language Acquisition**

Course Outline

ELV-201.XXXX Modern Bengali Literature
Semester, Year

Instructor: Instructor's Name
Office Hours:
E-mail: Instructor's email
Phone: 718-482-XXXX

Catalog Course Description: This course will familiarize students with modern Bengali literature through selected readings from various genres. Representative Bengali writers from West Bengal and Bangladesh will be studied. This course is taught in Bengali.

Prerequisites: ELV105 and/or Exemption Exam

Specific intended student learning outcomes: By the end of the semester, the students are expected to be able to:

- Identify major traditions of modern Bengali literature and explain them within a socio-cultural context.
- Identify and illustrate major genres of modern Bengali literature.
- Identify and describe characteristics of literary texts from the late 19th century through the present.
- Analyze various literary texts to highlight their major stylistic and thematic characteristics.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of and appreciation for literature when analyzing stories, poems and plays.
- Develop a reasonable interpretation of a literary text and support that interpretation with evidence.
- Compare and contrast with major stylistic and thematic similarities and differences among various periods of modern Bengali literary expressions.

The course bears 3 credits that count as Flexible Core (Individual and Society) of the CUNY's new general education curriculum (Pathways).

In this course students will:

- **Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.** Students are required to interpret literary texts holistically in light of the Bengali anthropological facts and the historical and political backgrounds of the time when the literary works were written. Reading literature demands integrative analyses of information collected from various sources such as texts, cultural and religious knowledge, historical facts, political circumstances, geographic facts, and the writers' belief. The students will demonstrate their ability to analyze, interpret and synthesize information from variety of sources and points of view.

- **Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.**
The class exercises focus on the development of students' analytical skills which enable them to read, appreciate, interpret and critique Bengali literary works. Students are expected to make a critical analysis of Bengali literary texts and logically present writers' perspectives with some evidence from both within the literary texts and outside of the texts.
- **Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.**
Students are expected to present their ability to make cogent arguments on selected topics of the Bengali literature in the writing assignments and in the final presentation at the end of the semester. Students are required to cite appropriate evidence to support conclusions.
- **Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society.**
Students will become familiar with the history of Bengal, Bengali culture and art, and Bengali perspectives through analysis of, response to, and interpretation of a variety of texts and genres. They will examine these texts from a literary perspective as studies of individuals within society. Methodologies and theories drawn from anthropology, history, art, political science, philosophy, and psychology will be discussed with respect to the literary texts.
- **Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.**
Students will examine the relationship between individual and society through literature. The students will study the different socio-psychological, political and philosophical trajectories taken in Bengali literature in relation to individual subjectivity and identity. Through their analysis and interpretation of literary texts and genres, the students will develop a more complex understanding of the individual and his/her place within diverse social contexts.
- **Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises.**
Students will gain perspective on modern responses, both individual and collective, to issues of class, identity, linguistic human rights, and personal and cultural history by analyzing and interpreting literary works. The students will examine how Bengali writers explore issues of justice, linguistic human rights, social norms and inequalities and identity (e.g., gender role, class, nationality). The students are expected to reflect critically on those perspectives in order to develop their own informed opinions about these works.

Required Textbooks:

1. Goswami, J. (1999). *Mā nishāda*. Kalakata: Ānanda Pabalisarsa.
2. Bandyopadhyay, A. (1999). *Pancasati Galpo*. Kalakata: Ānanda Pabalisarsa.
3. Hossain, S. (1997). *Nirbachito Golpo*. Dhaka: Aphasara Bradarsa.

Grades:

Exams: Midterm – 25%

Final Exam – 30%

Oral Presentation – 10%

Quizzes: 15% (3 quizzes, each is 5%);

Writing Assignments*- 20 % (each paper is 10%)

* These papers will be interpretive essays using analytical methods discussed in the first week of class or a full report on a novel covered in class. Possible paper topics will be discussed in class.

Students will be asked to provide a hard copy (paper copy) as well as an electronic copy sent to the instructor's e-mail address. At least 5 different sources must be cited.

Weekly schedule (subject to change)

Week 1	Introduction and overview of Bengali literature The beginnings of Modern Bengali Literature
Weeks 2-4 Novel	Representative novelists Humayun Kabir Dhali - <i>Mon Shudu, Mon Chuyesay</i> Atin Bandyopadhyay - <i>Pancasati Galpo</i> Sanjeev Chattopadhyay – <i>Svetapatharera Tebila</i> Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay - <i>Bhalobasa</i>
Weeks 5-6 Poetry	Representative Short Story Writers Humayun Ahmed – Galpo Samgra Suchita Bhattacharya – Bukera Katha Mahasveta Devi – Mahasveta Debira Pancasati Buddadeb Guha – Rbhu vol.13
Week 7	Midterm Exam
Weeks 7-8	Representative Poets Shamsur Rahman - <i>Samasur Rahmanera Sreshhtha Kabita</i> Joy Goswami - <i>Mā nishāda</i> Subhas Mukhopadhyay - <i>Subhasa Mukhopadhyayera Sreshhtha Kabita</i> Nirmalendu Goon – <i>Nirbachita</i> Sankha Ghosh - <i>Jarnala</i>
Weeks 9-10	Representative Playwrights and Film Directors Roy Manmatha - <i>Lan Fokir</i> Munir Chowdhury – <i>Kabar</i> Humayun Ahmed – <i>Agunera Parasamani</i> Satyajit Ray – <i>Pather Panchali</i>
Weeks 11-12	Women Authors Selina Hossain - <i>Nirbachito Golpo</i> Banu Bosu – <i>Sera Baro</i> Nabaneeta Dev Sen- <i>Nati Nabanita</i>
Week 13	Final Exam

Policies

Classroom policies: The following policies have been instituted to ensure an optimal learning experience for all students:

- Please arrive on time.
- Please prepare for each class meeting by completing all writing/reading assignments beforehand.
- Please turn your cell phone to silence during class.
- Please turn off your cell phone during the exam and the quiz.

Rules for Personal Conduct: You are expected to obey the rules and regulations of the College about conduct. Disorderly or indecent behavior is not appropriate in a college setting. It is a violation of college rules and is not acceptable.

The student attendance policy: As stated in the college catalog: "Attendance in class is a requirement and will be considered in the evaluation of student performance. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance. The maximum number of unexcused absences is limited to 15% of the number of class hours. Note: Absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program" (117).

The academic dishonesty policy: As stated in the catalog: "Academic Dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York and is punishable by penalties ranging from a grade of 'F' on a given test, research paper or assignment, to an 'F' in the course or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Internet Plagiarism
- Obtaining Unfair Advantages
- Falsification of Records and Official Documents
- Misconduct in Internships (117)

Policy on assigning the grade of Incomplete: As stated in the college catalogue: "The Incomplete grade may be awarded to students who have not completed all of the required course work but for whom there is a reasonable expectation of satisfactory completion. A student who is otherwise in good standing in a course defined as complying with the college attendance policy and maintaining a passing average but who has not completed at most two major assignments or examinations by the end of the course may request an incomplete grade. To be eligible, such a student must provide, before the instructor submits grades for the course, a documented reason, satisfactory to the instructor, for not having completed the assignment on time. Instructors giving IN grades must inform students in writing of the conditions under which they may receive passing grades. Departments may designate certain courses in which no incomplete grades may be awarded." (120).

Declaration of pluralism: The Education and Language Acquisition Department embraces diversity. We respect each other regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability and social class. For detailed information regarding the policy, please refer to Student Handbook 2011-2012 (p.89).