Animal replicas made in celebration of Pohela Boishakh or the Bangla New Year

Bangla Course Offerings

The philosophy of the Bangla teaching and program at Berkeley is to make the students aware of the incredible depth and range of Bangla culture from the 19th century to the present. Bangla teaching highlights the cultures from pre-independence Bengal in India, modern West Bengal and Bangladesh, as well as the culture of the diasporic Bangla population in North America. Language, culture, nation, history and politics are brought alive through Bangla teaching at UCB. The Bangla program, since it started in 2005, has already been able to fulfill its unique potential through sustained student participation and scholarly engagement with the Bengali language, culture and society across the borders of the two Bengals. We offer both language focused as well as content based courses in Bangla.

Language Courses:

The goal of the Bangla program is to provide UCB students with comprehensive solutions to learning Bangla language and culture at both the Introductory and Intermediate levels.

Content Courses:

Content courses on Bengal’s culture and history cover a wide range of topics: 19th-century Bengali social and cultural Enlightenment; nationalist and colonial struggle in Bengal and India; the Partition of India and Bengal in 1947; and the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. Both the Bengali materials in English translation, and the cinema of Bengal have been effective tools of instruction about this regions past and present.

Faculty & Program Offerings

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<th>Programs</th>
<th>Faculty &amp; Scholars</th>
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<tr>
<td>Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Economist Rehman Sobhan offers an agenda for inclusive development in South Asia - Fall 2013</td>
<td>Ahmed Badruzzaman (Energy)</td>
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<td>Repositioning Bangladesh A conversation with David Lewis on Bangladesh’s Achievements &amp; Future Challenges - Spring 2013</td>
<td>Pranab Bardhan (Development Economics)</td>
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<td>Bridging the Policy-Action Divide: Conference on challenges and prospects for Bangladesh - Spring 2013</td>
<td>Amit Basu (Bangla Language)</td>
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<td>40 Years of Camp Life Documentary on Bangladesh’s ‘Bihari Camps’ - Spring 2012</td>
<td>Ashok Gadgil (Arsenic Free Water)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methodological Tools for Social Scientists Workshop for Social Scientists from International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh - Fall 2009</td>
<td>Isha Ray (Safe Water)</td>
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<td>Emerging Bangladesh Conference on Opportunities &amp; Challenges for Bangladesh’s Future - Fall 2009</td>
<td>Raka Ray (Feminist Studies)</td>
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<td>Ananya Roy (Microfinance, Poverty Alleviation)</td>
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<td>Sanchita Saxena (Textile &amp; Garment Industry)</td>
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<td>Allan H. Smith (Arsenic and Public Health)</td>
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The Berkeley Bangla Studies’ Initiative

The University of California at Berkeley is a global leader for the study of South Asia, and one of very few institutions in the United States to offer both undergraduate and graduate degree programs focusing on numerous aspects of this vital region. As an integral part of the South Asia curriculum at Berkeley, interest in the study of Bangla as well as Bangladesh’s history, politics, and culture is growing rapidly. We are strongly committed to strengthening our engagement with both subjects in the years ahead. Our first priorities will be to:

- Endow a permanent lectureship in Bangla.
- Offer regular courses relating to Bangladesh or the Bangladeshi-American community.
- Extend our year-round capacity to invite speakers working on Bangla or Bangladesh.

Ways to Give

The University of California at Berkeley invites alumni, parents and friends active in the Bangladeshi and Bangla-speaking community to join in supporting the Berkeley Bangla Studies’ Initiative. Gifts from families, businesses, and other organizations are also encouraged. Gifts may be given in the following forms:

- Outright cash contributions, tax-deductible within certain limits of law
- A pledge to be paid over several years
- Gifts of securities
- Matching gifts by employers. Many companies match gifts from retirees and board members as well as employees.
- Bequests
- All donations are tax deductible.

Levels of Support and Naming Opportunities

Several options are available when making a gift to the Berkeley Bangla Studies’ Initiative:

- $2 Million (to endow): Permanent Bangladeshi Studies Program at CAL
- $300k (to endow): Permanent Lecturer in Bangla
- $100k (per session): 2 Week Campus Training Workshop for 8-10 Students from Bangladesh
- $75k (per semester): Course on International Reporting taught by a Bangladeshi Journalist with 3-week stay in Bangladesh
- $60k (per session/tour): Course on Contemporary Issues in Bangladesh with a 10-day study tour to Bangladesh
- $50k (per session/tour): Internship opportunities in Bangladesh for 6-8 students for 8 weeks each year *
- $38k (annually per tuition) or $75k (full scholarship) or $750k (to endow): Student of Bangladeshi Origin to Study at Cal
- $25k (per conference or $500k (to endow): Conference on Bangla and/or Bangladesh Studies
- $13k (per semester): New Course on Bangla and/or Bangladesh Studies
- $7k (per year) or $140k (to endow): Named Graduate Fellowship
- $5k (per year) or $100k (to endow): Distinguished Lecture Series
- $2k (per year) or $40k (to endow): Named Under-Graduate Fellowship

* with all local costs covered by host organization

Donors will be acknowledged on the Center’s website and publicity materials. All donors who make donations above $100,000 will also be honored with a plaque in the Center.

For more information on giving opportunities, please contact:

Sanchita Saxena, Associate Director
Center for South Asia Studies,
(510) 642-3608
sanchitas@berkeley.edu