

Department of Bengali
ABN Seal College

Add-on Course

“লিখন (LIKHAN)”

Syllabus and Course Design

Course Design:

Number of effective week: 1

Duration of class: 2 Hours

Total contact hours (teaching): 28

Total hours for evaluation: 4

Course Description:

This course is designed for undergraduate students, as a part of the Institution's drive for skill-enhancing Add-On course for undergraduate students. This course has been designed to give the students a preliminary training on academic and professional writing, which will not only be helpful for them to acquire certain part-time or full-time writing jobs, but it will also equip them with skills to appreciate both scientific and creative literature.

The course has been distributed in 14 classes, each bearing 2 hours of contact between the participants and the instructor. The classes will be at once theoretical and pragmatic, intending to engage participants in different assignment and performance activities. After completion of the course the participants would require to sit for a descriptive exam, a seminar presentation and a writing assignments, the grades of which would determine his/her success. After completion, the students shall receive a certificate.

Course Objectives:

1. To acquaint the students with different forms of prose writing and their significance/usage in contemporary times.
2. A basic idea about the various streams of professional prose-writing: from academia to media.
3. To find out the students' thrust towards particular genre(s) of writing and hone their talents.
4. To teach them how to appreciate writing, critically analyse writing and express oneself through writing.
5. Last but not the least, to wipe out the fear of writing from the hearts of the students.

Course Requirements:

It is a basic course, therefore all undergraduate students, who already possess a basic idea about syntax and language usage are eligible to attend the course.

Course Design:

Class 1:

What is prose writing and how it is associated with modernity.

History and development of Bengali prose writing.

Different types of prose writing. Broadly: Scientific writing and Creative writing; however, the barrier is already blurred and the skill is to merge these two in proper ratio in accordance to the readership of the project. Different forms of writing: Academic Writing (proposals, thesis, articles, assignments, book-review C.V. and bio data etc.), News report and editorial writing, Script writing for cine-media, Content writing for different agencies, Creative writing, impactful blog writing, translations.

Usage of different softwares for effective writing (such as, MS Word, Avro Keyboard).

The students will learn about different kinds of prose writing and how to execute them by using cutting edge technological tools.

Reading Assignment: different forms of prose writing, short pieces.

Class 2:

Basics of Prose Writing: The use of syntax, keeping a proper pattern of tense and spelling throughout the piece, consulting the thesaurus to use poignant words in right places, appropriate usage of articles and prepositions, understanding the metaphors and effective usage of them in a text, usage of idioms and proverbs in a text, other syntax-related issues and fine tuning of the writing skill.

Suggested Assignment: Students will make a list of titles selecting from each category of prose writing, and write 500 words about one of them.

Recommended Reading/ Watching (The instructor is free to add or alter):

Usage of tense in academic writing (video):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UA5_kInKs7w

English Prepositions List/ Joseph Esseberger (PDF Available)

<https://www.englishclub.com/store/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/EPL-sample.pdf>

Metaphors We live By/ George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (may watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYcQcwUfo8c>) (PDF available).

Improve Your Written English/ Marion Field

(http://toefl.uobabylon.edu.iq/papers/itp_2015_12653122.pdf).

বাংলা কী লিখবেন কেন লিখবেন/ নীরেন্দ্রনাথ চক্রবর্তী (PDF Available).

পশ্চিমবঙ্গ বাংলা আকাদেমি অভিধান/ শব্দ-ভাণ্ডার (PDF Available).

Class 3:

Basics of Academic writing: different types, such as research proposal/project proposal; MPhil or PhD research dissertation; articles in scientific journals; book review; essay type question in exams; C.V etc.

Understanding the proper structure of academic writing: introduction, research question, literature review, methodology and theoretical frameworks, addressing the research question, making statements and hypothesis, finding a conclusion and end with remarks. Nuances of academic writing: how to argue, how to rationalize, how to put critical comments, how to overcome different biases, how to use effective exemplification, how to use accurate references in proper style, how to get rid of plagiarism.

Referencing and style guides: different systems such as MLA, Chicago, APA, Harvard etc. (PDF available).

System of transliteration using diacritics (PDF available).

Book Proposal and Manuscript submission. Peer reviewing and response to reviewer's comments.

Activity: Providing the students with samples of different kind of academic writings.

Suggested Assignment: The students would write a 500-word research proposal with proper referencing and structure.

Class: 4, 5, 6 and 7:

Writing prose literary: the students shall gradually delve into deeper readings. Writing literary prose, or creative writing is important for most of the professional writing other than academic. Transformation of prose writing in both Bengali and English Literature. Students will go through selected parts of the texts and try to understand how the evolution of contemporary

Bengali/English prose has taken place. They will try to appreciate different types of prose writing and learn literary techniques.

Reading List (the instructor may choose from the following authors or may suggest someone else):

বিভিন্ন গ্রন্থ থেকে আলোচনা, ভাষাশৈলি, শব্দ-চয়ন, বাক্যবিন্যাস, যুক্তিজাল বুনন, অনুভূতির সূচারু প্রকাশ: বঙ্কিমচন্দ্র চট্টোপাধ্যায়, সঞ্জীবচন্দ্র চট্টোপাধ্যায়, স্বামী বিবেকানন্দ, টেকচাঁদ ঠাকুর, অক্ষয়কুমার দত্ত, ভূদেব মুখোপাধ্যায়, রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর, অবনীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর, প্রমথ চৌধুরি, বুদ্ধদেব বসু, লীলা মজুমদার, সৈয়দ মুজতবা আলী, বিভূতিভূষণ বন্দোপাধ্যায়, আশাপূর্ণা দেবী, সৈয়দ ওয়ালিউল্লাহ, কমলকুমার মজুমদার, শিবরাম চক্রবর্তী, শঙ্খ ঘোষ, আখতারুজ্জামান ইলিয়াস, সুনীল গঙ্গোপাধ্যায়, নবনীতা দেবসেন, অমিয়ভূষণ মজুমদার, হাসান আজিজুল হক, রাঘব বন্দোপাধ্যায়।

বাংলা চলিত গদ্য/ মণিলাল খান (পি ডি এফ)

বাংলা সাহিত্যে গদ্য/সুকুমার সেন (পি ডি এফ)

Suggested Assignment: The students will write a 500-word prose piece.

Class 8:

Writing news article and editorial: Students will learn the methods of writing for the news media, or in general, public writing. The technicalities, addressing certain ‘uncomfortable’, ‘problematic’ and ‘sensitive’ issues with subtlety and political correctness, how to imbue one’s own ideology in the writing without trivializing, negating or disrespecting the opposite viewpoint.

Activity: Students will read different types of newspaper articles and features to understand the nuances of such writing.

Recommended Reading:

উপনিবেশের সমাজ ও বাংলা সাংবাদিক গদ্য/ দেবেশ রায় (পি ডি এফ)

সাংবাদিকতা, সাংবাদিক ও সংবাদপত্র/ সুধাংশু শেখর রায় (পি ডি এফ)

ভবানীচরণ বন্দোপাধ্যায়, প্রমথ চৌধুরি, নারায়ণ গঙ্গোপাধ্যায়, গৌরকিশোর ঘোষ, সন্তোষকুমার ঘোষ, অশোক মিত্র, অশোক দাশগুপ্ত প্রমুখ।

Class 9:

Blog and Content Writing: What are blogs, how to write blogs effectively, how to build a steady readership, how to use the online platforms. What is

content writing, how companies use content-writers to advertise/publicise their products or channel. Nuances of content writing and how to get such jobs. The instructor will select from the vast array of blogs and contents to show the students how it is done professionally, how it is different from writing for news media.

Suggested Assignment: students will write a blog piece or a content-writing piece.

Class: 10

Script Writing, comics and graphic novel writing: What is script writing, techniques and technicalities of it. How it is different from literature writing. Discussing the professional scopes of it and how to avail such opportunities. What is graphic novel and how to write for a graphic novel. What are comics and how to write comics.

The instructor will give examples from different categories of texts and show the students the nuances of such writings.

Recommended Reading and Watching:

Screenplay Format: How to write movie screenplay in format (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFZU17EJdX8>).

গুপি গাইন বাঘা বাইনের চিত্রনাট্য (পি ডি এফ)

বিষয় চলচ্চিত্র/ সত্যজিৎ রায় (পি ডি এফ)

Writing a Screenplay/ John Costello (pdf)

Class 11:

Translation: Why learning about translation is important not only for knowledge but also to learn sentence-construction, why translation is essential for good academic writing, professional opportunities for translators. Brief overview of different theories of translation, literal translation (আক্ষরিক অনুবাদ) and literary translation/ free translation (ভাবানুবাদ). How to translate with proper syntax and correct usage of grammar, how to retain the mood/ diction of the original text in translation, how to be true to the original text in spite of creating a distinct piece by translation.

Activity: The instructor will choose couple of translation works and perform a close reading of it in comparison with the original text.

Recommended Reading:

Becoming a Translator: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Translation/ Douglas Robinson (pdf)

বাংলা সাহিত্যে বিভিন্ন অনুবাদের ধারা এবং অনুবাদকদের কিছু কাজ।

Suggested Assignment: A small translation piece.

Class 12:

Understanding writing and publication: The basic theories of writing, how to understand writing, what do I want to write and how do I want to write.

Understanding the difference between thought and writing. How long an idea should be kept inside the mind before it is noted down? Thorough reviewing of one's own writing. Common grammatical errors and shortcomings in rhetoric.

How to deal with the overwhelming presence of the authorial self in writing.

How to negotiate between explanation and metaphorisation: how much further should the author go with hidden intent and how will s/he understand that a certain 'idea' needs more clarification for the reader.

Standard methods of proof correction. Editing an article/ book. Editing a Journal.

Class 13:

Use of digital repositories, web-databases and online academic resources for useful academic and professional writing: The resource person would provide the student with the knowledge and technique of using and utilizing various online resources and repositories. He will also acquaint the participants with some useful online courses that might come useful for their future academic and professional endeavours.

Class 14:

Summary and Group Discussion

Final Assessment:

1. The participants will sit for a 2 hour descriptive and analytical examination on the topics that has been taught (50 Marks).
2. The students will submit a writing assignment of their choice (30 Marks).
3. The students will present a seminar paper (10 minutes) and appear for a viva-voce (5 minutes) assessment on their seminar topic in the form of an interactive session after the seminar (20 Marks).

Course Outcome for LIKHAN (লিখন)
Add-On Course on effective writing in Bengali

P.G. Department of Bengali

Course Outcome:

This course is designed for undergraduate students, as a part of the Institution's drive for skill-enhancing Add-On courses. This is essentially an effective writing course, which has been designed to both hone the writing skill of students enrolled in higher education, as well as helping them equip their language skills as an efficacious way of participating in the job-market. This course shall provide the a preliminary training on academic and professional writing, which will not only be helpful for them to acquire certain part-time or full-time writing jobs, but it will also equip them with skills to appreciate both scientific and creative literature.

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