



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Office of the Principal

SHAHID MATANGINI HAZRA GOVT. GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Chakshrikrishnapur-Kulberia :: Kulberia :: Purba Medinipur 721649



matanginicollege@gmail.com/ principal@matanginicollege.ac.in 03228-262261/262262 www.matanginicollege.ac.ir

Report on the Webinar on American poetry held on December 12th, 2021

On December 12th, 2021, the Department of English at Shahid Matangini Hazra Government General Degree College for Women hosted an online webinar which was designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of key literary works and themes related to American Poetry. This session, conducted via Google Meet, began at 11:00 AM and featured two esteemed speakers: Ms. Silpi Maitra and Mr. Rajit Chakraborty. Their lectures focused on significant works by Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, offering students a deeper appreciation of American poetry.

The first lecture was delivered by Ms. Silpi Maitra, who provided an insightful analysis of selected poems by Emily Dickinson, including 'I'm Wife; I've Finished That' and 'I Cannot Live with You'. Ms. Maitra's discussion centered on Dickinson's exploration of gender roles, identity, and the complexities of personal relationships. She explained how Dickinson's poetry challenges conventional notions of femininity and marriage, portraying the speaker's struggle with societal expectations and the desire for self-assertion. Ms. Maitra's lecture highlighted Dickinson's unique poetic style, characterized by its brevity, innovative punctuation, and profound emotional depth. Her analysis encouraged students to consider the ways in which Dickinson's work speaks to the tensions between individual autonomy and societal norms, particularly from a female perspective.

Following Ms. Maitra's lecture, Mr. Rajit Chakraborty took the virtual stage to discuss Walt Whitman's iconic poem 'O Captain! My Captain!'. Mr. Chakraborty's lecture focused on the historical context of the poem, written as an elegy for President Abraham Lincoln following his assassination. He explored the themes of leadership, loss, and national identity, emphasizing how Whitman's work reflects the collective grief of a nation in the aftermath of a profound tragedy. Mr. Chakraborty also examined Whitman's use of the extended metaphor of the captain and the ship, illustrating how this imagery conveys both the personal and public mourning experienced by the American people. The session included interactive Q&A segments after each lecture, where students actively participated by asking questions and sharing their thoughts. Ms. Maitra and Mr. Chakraborty's willingness to address students' queries and expand on their analyses contributed to a highly enriching academic experience. The webinar was live-streamed on the college's official YouTube channel, ensuring that a wider audience could benefit from the insights shared during the session. The event was meticulously organized by the Department of English, under the guidance of Yasmin Chaudhuri, Head of the Department, and Sayantika Sen, Assistant Professor of English.

Principal
Shahid Matangini Hazra Government
General Degree College for Women
Chakshrikrishnapur, Kulberia, Nimitouri
Tamluk, Purba Medinipur

Principal,
Shahid Matangini Hazra Govt. General Degree
College for Women,
Chakshrikrishnapur, Kulberia, Purba Medinipur