

2.6 Postgraduate Diploma in Buddhist Studies

Scope and Content of the Course

This course which is an introduction to Buddhist Studies is meant for students who have no basic knowledge of Buddhism. It requires no knowledge of the Pali language nor prior acquaintance with Buddhist texts. Familiarity with Indian history and Indian religious thought would be useful. The course provides an insight into the main teachings of Buddhism, including the specific Indian setting in which it had its origin. Its relationship to other religious systems of India is explored. The culture of Buddhism with its impact on humanity during the last twenty-five centuries is analyzed.

Eligibility for Admission

Candidates seeking admission for this course should have one of the following qualifications:

- i. A degree from a recognized university
or
- ii. A pass at the Final Examination of the Oriental Studies Society (Sri Lanka)
or
- iii. Any other qualification deemed by the Faculty Board of the Institute

Requirements for the Course of Study

The Postgraduate Diploma in Buddhist Studies course consists of six course units there are as follows:

- PDBS 01: The Indian Religious Background and the Emergence of Buddhism
- PDBS 02: Basic Doctrines of Early Buddhism
- PDBS 03: Buddhist Social Philosophy
- PDBS 04: Buddhist Culture: An Outline Study
- PDBS 05: Extended Essay
- PDBS 06: Fundamentals of Buddhist Ethics

Evaluation

Taught Course Units

- i. Two assignments for each course unit: 15 marks per each assignment
- ii. In-class participation: 10 marks
- iii. A three-hour final year examination for each course unit: 60 marks per course unit

Extended Essay: 100 marks

In the evaluation of extended essay, selection of an appropriate topic, logical structure, clarity of presentation and familiarity with sources will be taken into consideration.

Grades

70 - 100	A	Distinction
60 - 69	B	Credit
40 - 59	C	Pass
00 - 39	W	Weak

- (i) **Merit Pass -** An overall average of 70 for all units with not less than 40 marks for any unit
- (ii) **Pass -** 40 Marks for each unit or marks between 35-39 for one unit with an overall average of 40 or above for all units

Syllabus for the Postgraduate Diploma in Buddhist Studies

Course Code	PDBS 01
Course Title	The Indian Religious Background and the Emergence of Buddhism
Aim	Identification of origin and evolution of pre-Buddhist religious and philosophical systems and their influence on the emergence of Buddhism.
Content	This unit explores the religious and intellectual background against which Buddhism emerged, with a focus on the following aspects: Vedic religion and its evolution from polytheism via henotheism to monotheism, the emergence of the Upaniṣads and their central teachings: the search for the ultimate reality and the identity of ātman and Brahman; the doctrine of reincarnation, karma and salvation through knowledge; religious practices and social institutions associated with the Brāhmaṇic culture; the rise of the Sāmaṇa movement and its heterodox views and radical tendencies; the Six Teachers and their doctrines; the paribbājakas as wandering religious mendicants; ascetic practices and their religious assumptions; conflict between externalist (<i>sassatavāda</i>) and nihilist (<i>ucchedavāda</i>) views of life and the birth of skepticism; emergence of Buddhism and its relation to the contemporary Indian religions and philosophies.
Duration	30 hours
Method of Teaching	Lectures, discussions and assignments
Method of Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two assignments ■ In-class participation ■ Final year examination
Expected Learning Outcomes	Ability to explain the special characteristics of pre-Buddhist religious and philosophical traditions and their influence on Buddhism.
Recommended References	<p>Barua, M. B., (1921). <i>Pre-Buddhist Indian Philosophy</i>, Calcutta.</p> <p>Basham, A. L., ed. (1975). <i>A Cultural History of India, Oxford. Literature</i>, <i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i>, Cluwer Academic Publishers. (511-529)</p> <p>Bronkhorst, Johanness, (2000). "The Riddle of the Jainas and Ājīvakas in Early Buddhist</p> <p>Debes, Paul, (1977). <i>A Discourse to the Knowers of Veda</i>, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.</p> <p>Dutt, Sukumar, (1996). <i>Early Buddhist Monachism</i>, Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd.</p> <p>Glasenapp, H.V., (1978). <i>Vedanta and Buddhism</i>, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.</p> <p>Hazra, Kanai Lal, (1988). <i>Constitution of Buddhist Saṅgha</i>, Delhi: D.K. Publishers and Distributors.</p> <p>Jayatileke, K. N., (1963). <i>Early Buddhist Theory of Knowledge</i>, London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd.</p> <p>Joshi, Lal Mani, (1987). <i>Brahmanism, Buddhism and Hinduism</i>, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.</p> <p>Radhakrishnan, S., (1958). <i>Indian Philosophy</i>, Vol. I, London: London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd.</p>

Course Code	PDBS 02
Course Title	Basic Doctrines of Early Buddhism
Aim	A Comprehensive understanding of fundamental teachings of Early Buddhism.
Content	This course is designed to provide insight into the main teachings of early Buddhism through a study of the following themes: the Buddhist view of sentient existence as shown by the three signata (<i>tilakkhaṇa</i>) and the doctrine of dependent co-origination (<i>paṭicca-samuppāda</i>); the analysis of empiric individuality into <i>khandha</i> , <i>āyatana</i> and <i>dhātu</i> and the rejection of the physical and metaphysical views of the self; the Buddhist diagnosis of the human condition and the ideal of man's perfection and deliverance as set forth in the Four Noble Truths; analysis of mind and its relevance to mental culture; ethical teachings and social religious ideals; the epistemological standpoint and the empiricist predilection; the critique of metaphysical speculations (<i>ditṭhi</i>) and the category of the undetermined (<i>avyākata</i>); the distinctive characteristics of Buddhism as a religion and a philosophy.
Duration	30 hours
Method of Teaching	Lectures, discussions and assignments
Method of Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two assignments ■ In-class participation ■ Final year examination
Expected Learning Outcomes	Ability to describe Buddhist fundamental concepts.
Recommended References	<p>Boisvert, Mathieu, (1963). <i>The Five Aggregates: Understanding Theravada Psychology and Soteriology</i>, Ontario: Canadian Cooperation for Studies in Religion.</p> <p>Conze, Edward, (2003). <i>Buddhism, its Essence and Development</i>, Dover Publications Ins.: Mineola, New York.</p> <p>Fuller, Paul, (2005). <i>Notion of Dittṭhi in Theravāda Buddhism</i>, London: Routledge Curzon.</p> <p>Hamilton, Sue, (2000). <i>Early Buddhism: A New Approach, The Eye of the Beholder</i>, Curzon Press: Surray.</p> <p>Kalupahana, D.J., (2007). <i>A Source Book of Early Buddhist Philosophy</i>, Dehiwala: Buddhist Cultural Centre.</p> <p>_____, (2006). <i>Karma and Rebirth: Foundations of Buddhist Moral Philosophy</i>, Dehiwala: Buddhist Cultural Centre.</p> <p>_____, (1977). <i>Buddhist Philosophy: A Historical Analysis</i>, Honolulu: University of Hawaii.</p> <p>_____, (1975). <i>Causality: The Central Philosophy of Buddhism</i>, Honolulu: University of Hawaii.</p> <p>Karunadasa, Y., (2013). <i>Early Buddhist Teachings: The Middle Position in Theory and Practice</i>, Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies.</p> <p>Karunaratne, W.S., (1988). <i>The Theory of Causality</i>, Nugegoda: Indumati Karunaratne.</p> <p>Nyantiloka Maha Thera, Ven., (1982). <i>Path to Deliverance</i> (Reprint), Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.</p> <p>Piyadassi Thera, Ven., (1964). <i>The Buddha's Ancient Path</i>, London.</p> <p>Rahula, Ven. Walpola, (1959). <i>What the Buddha Taught</i>, Bedford.</p> <p>Sangharakshita, (1976). <i>A Survey of Buddhism</i>, Bangalore.</p> <p>Tachibana, S. (1961). <i>The Ethics of Buddhism</i>, Colombo</p>

Course Code	PDBS 03
Course Title	Buddhist Social Philosophy
Aim	An analytical and evaluative study of the social philosophy of Buddhism based on the discourses of the Pali canon .
Content	While the Buddhist concept of man and its implications will serve as a background to this study, it will focus attention on the following topics: Buddhist critique of the social and religious institutions based on the <i>Brāhmaṇic</i> theory of <i>varṇa</i> and <i>svadharma</i> ; Buddhist view of the origin and evolution of society; biological, historical and ethical arguments on the oneness of the human species; emphasis on man's superiority as against his supremacy; ethical criteria of human ends and social ideals; individual, society and inter-personal relations; <i>dhmmacariyā</i> and <i>samacariyā</i> ; the <i>Bodhisatta</i> ideal and practice; the role of the <i>Saṅgha</i> in relation to the lay community; Buddhist observations on economy and polity; qualities of leadership, <i>rāja-dhamma</i> and the Cakkavatti ideal; <i>aparīhāṇīya-dhamma</i> and <i>saṅgaha-vatthu</i> ; Buddhist perspective of law, justice and punishment.
Duration	30 hours
Method of Teaching	Lectures, discussions and assignments
Method of Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two assignments ■ In-class participation ■ Final year examination
Expected Learning Outcomes	Ability to analyze fundamental concepts of Buddhist social philosophy in relation to Pali suttas
Recommended References	<p>Aronson, Harvey B., (1980). <i>Love and Sympathy in Theravada Buddhism</i>, Delhi.</p> <p>Dharmasiri, G., (1986). <i>Fundamentals of Buddhist Ethics</i>, Singapore.</p> <p>Diana Y. Paul, (1979). <i>Women in Buddhism</i>, California.</p> <p>Gnanarama, Ven. Pategama, (1998). <i>Aspects of Early Buddhist Social Thought</i>, Singapore: Tisarana Buddhist Association.</p> <p>Gokuldas, D., (1955). <i>Democracy in Early Buddhist Sangha</i>, Calcutta.</p> <p>Jayatilke, K. N., (2000). <i>The Message of the Buddha</i>, ed. Ninian Smart, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.</p> <p>_____, (1969). <i>Aspects of Buddhist Social Philosophy</i>, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society</p> <p>Jones, Ken, (1981). <i>Buddhism and Social Action</i>, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.</p> <p>Katz, Nathan, (1979). <i>Buddhist Image of Human Perfection</i>, Delhi.</p> <p>Ling, Trevor, (1966). <i>Buddha, Marx and God</i>, New York.</p> <p>_____, (1951). <i>The Buddha</i>, London.</p> <p>Malalasekera, G.P., and Jayatilke K. N., (1981). <i>Buddhism and the Race Question</i>, UNESCO.</p> <p>Wijesekera, O.H. de A., (1972). <i>Buddhism and Society</i>, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society</p>

Course Code	PDBS 04
Course Title	Buddhist Culture: An Outline Study
Aim	A comprehensive understanding of the impact of Buddhism on society through its teachings and institutional framework from a socio-cultural angle.
Content	This course is not confined to a particular geographical area but appropriate situations will be reviewed from countries which came under the influence of Buddhism. This will involve an evaluative study of the role played by the Buddhist monks and laity in the dissemination of the new faith and its consequent adaptation and assimilation by the indigenous people. A general acquaintance with the religion and culture of each country prior to the introduction of Buddhism provides a background to this part of the study. This will be followed by an evaluation of Buddhism's contribution to the life and thought of the people in shaping their material and spiritual progress and the impetus it gave to creative works in arts and literature during its long history in various countries.
Duration	30 hours
Method of Teaching	Lectures, discussions and assignments
Method of Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two assignments ■ In-class participation ■ Final year examination
Expected Learning Outcomes	Ability to analyze the impact of Buddhism on Indian and other country cultures.
Recommended References	<p>Banerjee, A. C., (1973). <i>Buddhism in India and Abroad</i>, Calcutta.</p> <p>Bechert, Heinz, and Richard Gombrich, ed. (1987). <i>The World of Buddhism</i>, London.</p> <p>Conze, Edward, (1981). <i>A Short History of Buddhism</i>, London.</p> <p>Dhammaratana, Ven. H., Thera, (1968). <i>Buddhism in South India</i>, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.</p> <p>Dutt, R.C., (1983). <i>Buddhism and Buddhist Civilization in India</i>, Delhi.</p> <p>Dutt, Sukumar, (2004). <i>Buddhism in East Asia</i>, Delhi: Originals.</p> <p>Hazra, K. L., (1982). <i>History of Theravada Buddhism in South-East Asia</i>, New Delhi.</p> <p>Joshi, Lalmani, (1977). <i>Studies in Buddhist Culture of India</i>, Delhi.</p> <p>Rahula, Ven. Walpola, (1966). <i>History of Buddhism in Ceylon</i>, Colombo.</p> <p>Seckel, D., (1964). <i>The Art of Buddhism</i>, London.</p> <p>Singhal, D. F., (1984). <i>Buddhism in East Asia</i>, New Delhi.</p> <p>Vogel, J. Ph., (1936). <i>Buddhist Art in India, Ceylon and Java</i>, Oxford.</p>

Course Code	PDBS 05
Course Title	Extended Essay
Aim	To enhance the skill of academic writing.
Content	The students are required to write an essay of 2,500 to 3,000 words on a theme related to the course and selected with the guidance of the lecturers concerned. All the students are required to inform their essay titles before the end of the second term. The essay should be submitted within 30 days from the last question paper of the Final Year Examination.

Course Code	PDBS 06
Course Title	Fundamentals of Buddhist Ethics
Aim	To understand the basic ethical teachings in the Pali canon.
Content	This unit explores the basic ethical teachings in the Pali canon. The fundamentals of Buddhist ethics, <i>Sīla</i> (morality), Kamma and rebirth, <i>puñña-pāpa</i> , <i>kusala-akusala</i> , four <i>brahmavihāras</i> and ethical significance of nibbāna will be studied. Further, the eight-noble path (<i>ariya aṭṭhaṅgika-magga</i>) and perfections (<i>pāramitā</i>) will be treated. The ethical ideals, Bodhisattva, Arahant and Buddha, will be examined in relation to the moral cultivation.
Duration	30 hours
Method of Teaching	Lectures, discussions and assignments
Method of Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two assignments ■ In-class participation ■ Final year examination
Expected Learning Outcomes	Ability to explain and analyze the basic ethical teachings presented in the Pali canon.
Recommended References	<p>Harvey, Peter, 2000, <i>An Introduction to Buddhist Ethics: Foundations, Values, and Issues</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>McDermott. P., 2003, <i>Development in the Early Buddhist Concept of Kamma/Karma</i>, New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.</p> <p>Misra, G.S.P., 1984, <i>Development of Buddhist Ethics</i>, New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.</p> <p>Prasad, Hari Sankar, 2007, <i>The Centrality of Ethics in Buddhism: Exploratory Essays</i>, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.</p> <p>Saddhatissa, Hammalawa, 2001, <i>Buddhist Ethics</i>, Boston: Wisdom Publications.</p>