

Planned Syllabus for Certificate Course in Buddhist Studies

Organised by the Buddhist Library

4 Oct 2024 – 4 Apr 2025

Part 1: Daily Chanting – *from 4 Oct to 25 Oct 2024*

1. Pali Alphabet
2. Pali Pronunciations
3. Namaskāra, Tisaraṇa and Pañcasīla
4. Vandana Gatha
5. Mettasutta
6. Maṅgalasutta

Part 2: Dhamma in English – *from 1 Nov to 27 Dec 2024*

1. Basic Buddhist terminology (Pali-English)
2. A basic Introduction to the Pali Canon
3. Four Truths
 - i. Dukkhasacca
 - a. Felt Dukkha
 - b. Taught Dukkha
 - ii. Samudayasacca
 - iii. Nirodhasacca
 - iv. Maggasacca
 - a. The Threefold Trainings
 - b. Noble Eightfold Path
4. The Three Characteristics of the Existence
5. Saṃsāra - Existence - A Basic Introduction to Dependent Origination
6. Doctrine of Kamma
 - i. What is Kamma?
 - ii. Classifications

iii. Kammaphala

7. A Basic Introduction to Bhāvanā - Spiritual Development
 - i. Samatha
 - ii. Vipassanā

Part 3: Buddhist History and Buddhist Rituals – *from 3 Jan to 24 Jan 2025*

1. Life of the Buddha and Key Events
 - i. The Birth
 - ii. The Enlightenment
 - iii. The Passing Away
 - iv. The First Sermon
2. An Overview of the First Buddhist Council
3. Dana and Transferring Merits
4. Observance of Precepts - Development of Ethical Conduct
5. Jātaka (Selected Stories)

Part 4: Buddhist Practice – *from 14 Feb to 7 Mar 2025*

1. Meditation Practice
2. Dhamma Talks/ Dhamma Sharing/ Dhamma Communication
3. Social Projects/ Charity works
4. Voluntary Service

“Hands-on Practice” and Conclusion – **from 8 Mar to 4 Apr 2025**

Students will be given guidance before this “hands-on practice” takes place.

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