

Undergraduate Courses offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2017-2018

ELECTIVE COURSE

(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2016 Pāli language I (6 credits)

Offering Semester	1st Semester
Lecturer	Prof. T. Endo
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Schedule	Every Monday 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Class Venue	CPD 2.37, Centennial Campus

Course Description

Pāli is the language of Theravāda Buddhism commonly practiced in South and Southeast Asia. This Theravāda school of Buddhism is the only Buddhist school that has preserved the complete canons since the 3rd century B.C. 'Introductory Pāli' is meant for those students who have no prior knowledge of Pāli and who wish to become familiar with Pāli expressions and idioms, and with the basic requirements to understand Pāli Buddhist texts. The main focus of the course is to introduce basic Pāli grammar together with Pāli exercises, including Pāli phonetics, parts of speech, nouns of different gender and their declensions, verbs and their conjugations, participles and their functions, syntax and classification of sentences. At the end of the course the students are expected to be able to read simple Pāli sentences and understand their religious and philosophical significance.

Course Objective

To gain a knowledge of the basic Pali grammar and read and understand simple Pali texts.

Assessment

50% coursework and 50% examination

Course Outline

Date	Lesson	Content
04/09/2017	Lesson 1	I: Introduction: What is Pāli?, Pāli Literature, Pāli Alphabet. II: Reading 'Ti-saraṇa' (Three Refuges) in Pāli

11/09/2017	Lesson 2	I: Parts of Speech, Gender Number and Case in Pāli, Declension of Nouns – ‘a’ ending Masculine Nouns. Exercise 1. II: Reading ‘pañcasīla’ (Five Precepts) in Pāli.
18/09/2017	Lesson 3	I: Conjugation of Verbs: Present Tense, Different Conjugations. Exercises 2-3. II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.
25/09/2017	Lesson 4	I: Declension of nouns – ‘ī’ ending Masculine Nouns. Conjugation of Verbs: Past Tense. Exercise 4-5. II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.
09/10/2017	Lesson 5	I: Personal Pronouns. Exercise 6 II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts. (Mid-term Test)
23/10/2017	Lesson 6	I: Conjugation of Verbs: Future Tense. Declension of Nouns: ‘ī’ and ‘u’ ending Masculine Nouns. Exercises 7-8. II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.
30/10/2017	Lesson 7	I: Declension of (irregular) masculine nouns (adjectives) ending in ‘u’ – ‘bhatu’ (brother), ‘nattu’ (grandson), and ‘-vantu, -mantu’. Exercises 9 II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.
06/11/2017	Lesson 8	I: Declension of nouns: ‘ū’ ending Masculine Nouns. Adverbs of Time. Exercise 10. II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.
13/11/2017	Lesson 9	I: Declension of nouns: ‘ā’ ending Feminine Nouns. Conjugation of verbs: Imperative and Optative. Exercise 11. II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.

20/11/2017	Lesson 10	I: Declension of nouns: 'i' and 'ī' ending Feminine Nouns. Conjugation of verbs: Indeclinable Past Participle (Absolute). Exercise 12. II: Reading 'Dhammacakkapavattana-sutta' (the Buddha's first sermon)
27/11/2017	Lesson 11	I: Declension of nouns: 'u' ending Feminine Nouns. Declension of 'mātu' (mother). Adverbs of Place. Exercise 13. II: Reading 'Dhammacakkapavattana-sutta' (the Buddha's first sermon)
04/12/2017	Lesson 12	I: Declension of nouns: 'a' ending Neuter Nouns. Conjugation of verbs: Infinitive Exercise 14. (Term-end Test)

Text Books

1. A.P.Buddhadatta: *The New Pali Course*, Part I. Colombo: Buddhist Cultural Centre, 1997, 2011, 2013, 2014.
2. A. Anuruddha: *A Guide to the Study of Pali: The Language of Theravāda Buddhism*, Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, 2009.

Reference Works

1. K.R.Norman: *Pāli Literature* (online edition is available)
2. Oscar von Hinüber: *A Handbook of Pāli Literature*, Berlin.
3. A.K.Warder: *Introduction to Pāli*, Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2001 (online edition is available).
4. Y.Karunadasa: *Early Buddhist Teachings*, Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, 2nd edition, 2014.
4. T. Endo: T. Endo: *Studies in Pāli Commentarial Literature: Sources, Controversies, and Insights*, Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, 2013.