Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2019-20

ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2016 Pāli language I

Lecturer: Prof. T. Endo
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Offering semester: Semester 1

Lecture: Every Wednesday from 6:30pm-9:20pm
Venue: CPD 2.37

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 a complete canon since the 3rd century B.C.E. This course is meant for those students who have no prior knowledge of the language 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 grammar together with exercises, including phonetics, parts of speech, nouns of different gender and their declension, 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 in context.

Assessment

50% Course work (including a mid-term test) and 50% Term-end Examination.
Mid-term Test (Will be arranged during middle of the semester)
Term-end exam (Will be arranged during the official assessment/examination period)

General expectations of student performance at the various grades


About Plagiarism

Please be aware of plagiarism. For details, please refer to
http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism
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<th>Lesson</th>
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II: Reading ‘Tī-saraṇa’ (Three Refuges) in Pāli. |
| Lesson 2 | Sept 11, 2019 | I: Parts of Speech, Gender Number and Case in Pāli, Declension of Nouns – ‘a’ ending Masculine Nouns.  
Exercise 1.  
II: Reading ‘pañcaśīla’ (Five Precepts) in Pāli. |
| Lesson 3 | Sept 18, 2019 | I: Conjugation of Verbs: Present Tense, Different Conjugations.  
Exercises 2-3.  
II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts. |
Conjugation of Verbs: Past Tense.  
Exercise 4-5.  
II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts. |
| Lesson 5 | Oct 2, 2019 | I: Personal Pronouns.  
Exercise 6  
II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts.  
(Mid-term Test) |
| Lesson 6 | Oct 9, 2019 | 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. |
| Lesson 7 | Oct 23, 2019 | 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. |
Adverbs of Time.  
Exercise 10.  
II: Reading simple Pāli passages for the understanding of basic Buddhist concepts. |
| Lesson 9 | Nov 6, 2019 | I: Declension of nouns: ‘ā’ ending Feminine Nouns.  
Conjugation of verbs: Imperative and Optative.  
Exercise 11. |
II: Reading ‘Dhammacakkavatana-sutta’ (the Buddha’s first sermon)

II: Reading ‘Dhammacakkavatana-sutta’ (the Buddha’s first sermon)


Textbook

(Please try to order the book from the online bookshop of the Buddhist Cultural Centre: http://www.buddhistcc.net/bookshop/book_info.asp?bid=636)


Reference

1. K.R.Norman: Pāli Literature (online edition is available)  

(Last updated on July 23, 2019)