Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2020–21
ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2016 Pāli language I

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Dipen Barua</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Rm 4.22, 4/F, Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offering Semester</td>
<td>Semester I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Every Friday from 12:30–14:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Venue</td>
<td>CPD–1.21 (Face-to-face and online)</td>
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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 genders 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 in context.

Course Content
This course is for the absolute beginners. The content of this course deals with an introduction to Pāli and Pāli grammar that includes Pāli alphabet and sound system, nouns and their declensions, verbs and their conjugations, participles and their functions, secondary and primary derivatives, particles, join and disjoin Pāli words. Examples and exercises will be done from the Pāli Sutta-s which will help students understand basic Buddhist teachings.

Learning Outcome
After the completion of this course, students are expected to be able to understand basic Pāli grammar. Grammatical studies include nouns, verbs, declensions with different vowel and consonant endings, conjugations of the verb classes, tenses, and other grammatical forms. Students are also expected to read, write and understand Pāli sentences and explain the content of the Pāli discourses with the help of glossaries and dictionaries.
Teaching and Learning Method
Lectures, class discussions and tutorials

Assessment
50% coursework and 50% examination

Assessment Method
- Coursework (50%):
  - Class-participation (10%)
  - Med-term exam (20%)
  - Home-works (20%)
- Final examination (50%) will be held at the end of the semester. It is not an open-textbook exam. However, glossaries and dictionaries can be used during the exam.

Faculty Grade Expectations
http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf

About Plagiarism
Please be aware of plagiarism. For details, please refer to
http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism

Lecture Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 1</td>
<td>4 Sept 2020</td>
<td>(a) Introduction to the Pāli language and its alphabet</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Phonological remarks</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Vowels short and long</td>
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<td>- The letter classified</td>
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<td>(b) Nouns: Masculine (m), Neuter (n) and Feminine (f)</td>
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<td>(c) Cases: (1) Declension of masculine noun ending in–a: Dhamma</td>
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<td>(2) Declension of neuter noun ending in–a: rūpa</td>
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<td>(3) Declension of feminine noun ending in–ā: paññā</td>
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<td>(d) Verbs: Present tense</td>
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<td>(e) Example of Pāli sentences</td>
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<td>Lesson 2</td>
<td>11 Sept 2020</td>
<td>(a) Adjectives</td>
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<td>(b) Indeclinable</td>
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<td>(c) Genitive case</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(d) Conjugation of verbs</td>
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<td>(e) Classes of verbs I and X</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Conjugation of coreti/corayati (√cur ‘steal’) ‘steals’</td>
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| Lesson 3 | 18 Sept 2020 | (a) Usage of the instrumental case  
(b) Ablative of reason  
(c) Declension of feminine noun ending in –ā: Saddhā  
(d) Declension of masculine noun ending in –i: pati  
(e) Exercises |
| Lesson 4 | 25 Sept 2020 | (a) Accusative used as adverb  
(b) Ablative used as adverb  
(c) Suffixes  
(d) Prefixes  
(e) Classes of verbs VI and I  
(f) Declension of masculine noun ending in –u (m): bhikkhu  
(g) Exercises |
| Lesson 5 | 9 Oct 2020 | (a) Declension of neuter noun ending in –u: Cakkhu  
(b) Declension of feminine nouns ending in –u: Dhenu and Jāti  
(c) Declension of neuter noun ending in –ī: Akkhi  
(d) Declension of feminine noun ending in –ī: Nadi  
(e) Exercises |
| Lesson 6 | 23 Oct 2020 | (a) Causatives and causative sentences  
(b) Denominatives  
(c) Class II verb  
(d) Conjugation of atti (exist/is)  
(e) Exercises |
| Lesson 7 | 30 Oct 2020 | (a) Declension of consonant-ending nouns: masculine nouns - bhagavant and bhavant  
(b) Possessive suffixes–vant and–mant  
(c) Two types of adjectives  
(d) Gerund  
(e) Exercises |
| Lesson 8 | 6 Nov 2020 | (a) Possessive suffix –in, –vin  
(b) Declension of masculine and neuter noun rūpin  
(c) Past Participle Passive (PPP)  
(d) Med-term exam |
| Lesson 9 | 13 Nov 2020 | (a) Declension of masculine noun ending in –an: attan, rājan, brahman, san, kamman  
(b) Declension of demonstrative pronouns: masculine and feminine - ayam, neuter - idam/imam  
(c) Declension of personal pronouns: masculine - aham, tvam, so; neuter - tam; feminine - sā |
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<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| Lesson 10 | 20 Nov 2020 | (a) Declension of demonstrative pronoun: etad ‘this’, asau ‘that’  
(b) Pronominal adjectives  
(c) Declension of sabba “all”  
(d) Class V verbs  
(e) Exercises |
| Lesson 11 | 27 Nov 2020 | (a) Class V verbs  
(b) Class IX verbs  
(c) Declension of –as and –us ending nouns  
(d) Revisions and discussion about exam |

**Note:** The above contents may be modified based on students’ feedback during the class. Although the textbooks are prescribed, we may not exactly take materials from textbooks. So, handouts will be given in class. The tutor will also provide supplementary materials throughout the semester.

**Textbooks**

**Recommended Readings**

**Pāli Dictionaries (online)**
[https://dsalsrv04.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/pali/](https://dsalsrv04.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/pali/)
[https://www.buddhistdoor.net/dictionary/search/?k=Buddha&l=3](https://www.buddhistdoor.net/dictionary/search/?k=Buddha&l=3)