Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2024–25

ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2016 Pāli language I

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Offering Semester</td>
<td>Semester I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Every Monday from 3:30 pm to 5:20 pm</td>
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<td>Class Venue</td>
<td>CPD-3.28</td>
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Course Description

Pāli is the language of Theravāda Buddhist canon used by the Theravāda Buddhist tradition commonly practiced in South and Southeast Asia. This canon is the only complete Buddhist canon dating back to the 3rd century B.C. This course is meant for those students who have no prior knowledge of Pāli and who wish to become familiar with Pāli expressions and idioms so as to understand simple passages of Pāli Buddhist texts. The main focus of the course is to introduce the basics of the Pāli language including its grammar phonetics, parts of speech, nouns of different genders and their declensions, verbs and their conjugations, participles and their functions, syntax and classification of sentences. By 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 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

By the end 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 (15%)
  - Homework (15%)
  - Mid-term Test (20%)
- Final examination (50%) will be held at the end of the semester. It is an open-textbook exam.

**Lecture Schedule for Semester I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| Lesson 1 | 2 Sept 2024 | (a) Introduction to the Pāli language and its alphabet  
  • Phonological remarks  
  • Vowels short and long  
  • The letter classified  
(b) Nouns: Masculine (m), Neuter (n) and Feminine (f)  
(c) Example of Pāli sentences |
| Lesson 2 | 9 Sept 2024 | (a) Cases:  
  • Declension of masculine noun ending in–a: dhamma  
  • Declension of neuter noun ending in–a: rūpa  
  • Declension of feminine noun ending in–ā: paññā  
(b) Verbs: Present tense  
(c) Exercises |
| Lesson 3 | 16 Sept 2024 | (a) Adjectives  
(b) Indeclinable  
(c) Genitive case  
(d) Conjugation of verbs  
(e) Classes of verbs I and X  
  • Conjugation of coreti/corayati (√cur ‘steal’) ‘steals’  
(f) Exercises |
| Lesson 4 | 23 Sept 2024 | (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 |
|         |            | (a) Accusative used as adverb |
| Lesson 5 | 30 Sept 2024 | (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):  
\textit{bhikkhu}  
(g) Exercises |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lesson 6 | 7 Oct 2024 | (a) Declension of neuter noun ending in–u:  \textit{cakkhu}  
(b) Declension of feminine nouns ending in–u:  \textit{dhenu} and  \textit{jāti}  
(c) Declension of neuter noun ending in–i:  \textit{akkhi}  
(d) Declension of feminine noun ending in–ī:  \textit{nadī}  
(e) Exercises |
| No Class | 14 Oct 2024 | **Reading Week** |
| Lesson 7 | 21 Oct 2024 | (a) Causatives and causative sentences  
(b) Denominatives  
(c) Class II verb  
(d) Conjugation of  \textit{atthi} (exist/is)  
(e) Exercises  
**Mid-term Test** |
| Lesson 8 | 28 Oct 2024 | (a) Declension of consonant-ending nouns: masculine nouns -  \textit{bhagavant} and  \textit{bhavant}  
(b) Possessive suffixes–vant and–mant  
(c) Two types of adjectives  
(d) Gerund |
| Lesson 9 | 4 Nov 2024 | (a) Possessive suffix –in, –vin  
(b) Declension of masculine and neuter noun  \textit{rūpin}  
(c) Past Participle Passive (PPP)  
(d) Exercises |
| Lesson 10 | 11 Nov 2024 | (a) Declension of masculine noun ending in–an:  \textit{attan},  \textit{rājan},  \textit{brahman},  \textit{san},  \textit{kamman}  
(b) Declension of demonstrative pronouns: masculine and feminine -  \textit{ayaṃ}, neuter -  \textit{idam}/\textit{imaṃ}  
(c) Declension of personal pronouns: masculine -  \textit{ahāṃ},  \textit{tvam}, so; neuter -  \textit{taṃ}; feminine -  \textit{sā}  
(d) Exercises |
| Lesson 11 | 18 Nov 2024 | (a) Declension of demonstrative pronoun:  \textit{etad} ‘this’,  \textit{asau} ‘that’  
(b) Pronominal adjectives |
| Lesson 12 | 25 Nov 2024 | (a) Declension of sabba “all”
(b) Class V verbs
(c) Revision and discussion for final exam |

**Note:** The above contents may be modified based on students’ feedback during class. Although the textbook is prescribed, we may not exactly take materials from textbook. So, class notes and supplementary materials will be given in class throughout the semester.

**Textbook**

**Recommended Readings**

**Pāli Dictionaries (online)**