

Undergraduate Course offered by Centre of Buddhist Studies in 2026–27

ELECTIVE COURSE
(OPEN TO ALL FACULTIES)

BSTC2019 Pāli language II

Lecturer	Dr. Dipen Barua
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Offering Semester	Semester II
Schedule	To be confirmed
Class Venue	To be confirmed

Course Description

The main focus of the course is to introduce more practical knowledge of Pāli that enables students to read easy Pāli passages both prose and verse extracted directly from the Pāli texts. It also introduces remaining grammatical components not included in Pāli I such as 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 designed for students directly on BSTC2016 Pāli language I, expanding Pāli learning skills among students to understand and read sentences in Pāli. The main focus of Pāli language II is on the continuation of grammar which includes past, present, future participles, numerals, syntax, compounds, conditional tense, causative and reading passages from the Pāli texts such as the *Dīgha Nikāya*, the *Majjhima Nikāya*.

Learning Outcome

By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to

- gain advance knowledge of Pāli grammar;
- build a fundamental level of Pāli vocabulary;
- demonstrate the skill of translation Pāli sentences;
- understand the content of Pāli literature and apply their knowledge to other academic disciplines to gain a better understanding;
- provide a summary of the teachings in the Pāli Canon.

Teaching and Learning Method

Lectures, class discussions and tutorials

Prerequisite

BSTC2016 Pāli language I or teacher's approval

Assessment

50% coursework and 50% examination

Assessment Method

- Coursework (50%):
 - Class participation (15%)
 - Homework (15%)
 - Mid-term Test (20%)
- The final examination (50%) will be held at the end of the semester. It is an open-textbook exam.

Lecture Schedule for Semester II

Lesson	Contents
Lesson 1	(a) Declension of <i>-as</i> and <i>-us</i> ending nouns (b) Class IX verbs (c) Present Participles (d) Exercises
Lesson 2	(a) Relative pronouns and relative clauses (b) Interrogative pronouns (c) Exercises
Lesson 3	(a) The optative mood (d) Future Passive Participles (c) Exercises
Lesson 4	(a) Class III verbs (b) Numerals (cardinal) (c) Locative and genitive absolute (d) Exercises
Lesson 5	(a) Imperative mood (b) <i>Attanopada</i> verb forms (c) Passive Voice (d) Exercises
Lesson 6	(a) Aorists (b) Class VII verbs (c) Infinitive (d) Exercises

Reading Week	No Class
Lesson 7	(a) Declension of –ū ending m and f nouns (b) Suffixes and nominal derivation (c) Exercises
Lesson 8	(a) Some irregular declensions (b) Nominal compounds (c) The Perfect Tense (d) Exercises Mid-term Test
Lesson 9	(a) Agent nouns (b) Periphrastic future (c) Ordinal numeral (d) Exercises
Lesson 10	(a) Nouns and adj compounded with –kr and –bhū (b) <i>Bahubbīhi-samāsa</i> (c) Prohibitive (d) Exercises
Lesson 11	(a) <i>Bahubbīhi</i> formed with – <i>kāma</i> as the last member (b) Adverbial suffix (c) Exercises
Lesson 12	(a) Past Participle Active (b) Desiderative (c) Intensive (d) Revision and discussion about the final exam

Note: The content may be modified based on students’ feedback during class. Although the textbook is prescribed, the materials covered may not strictly follow it. Class notes and supplementary materials will be provided throughout the semester.

Textbook

Dhammajoti, KL. *Reading Buddhist Pāli Texts: An Elementary Grammatical Guide*. Hong Kong: The Buddha–Dharma Centre of Hong Kong, 2025 (3rd edition).

Recommended Readings

Anuruddha, Kakkapalliye. *A Guide to the Study of Pali: The Language of Theravada Buddhism*.

Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhism Studies, The University of Hong Kong, 2010.

Buddhadatta, A.P. *The New Pali Course* (Parts I & II). Sri Lanka: Buddhist Cultural Centre, 1997.

Gair, James W. and W.S. Karunatillake. *A New Course in Reading Pāli: Entering the Word of the Buddha*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private Limited, 1998.

Geiger, Wilhelm. *A Pāli Grammar*. Translated by Batakrişna Ghosh. Oxford: The Pali Text Society, 1994.

Nyanatiloka. *Buddhist Dictionary, Manual of Buddhist Terms and Doctrines*. Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1988.

Rhys Davids, T.W. and W. Stede (eds). *Pali-English Dictionary*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Private Limited, 1993.

Warder, A.K. *Introduction to Pali*. Oxford: The Pali Text Society, 2001.

Pāli Dictionaries (online)

Rhys Davids, T.W. and W. Stede (eds). *Pali-English Dictionary*. Available on Digital Dictionaries of South Asia. Updated in Mar 2021.
<https://dsal.srv04.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/pali/>

Rhys Davids, T.W. and W. Stede (eds). *Pali-English Dictionary*. London: The Pali Text Society:
<https://ancient-buddhist-texts.net/Reference/PTS/Pali-English-Dictionary.pdf>
