

DIPLOMA SYLLABI

EARLY BUDDHISM – BASIC DOCTRINES

Buddhist doctrines as presented in the discourses of the Sutta Pitaka, with greater emphasis on the following topics:

- The Four Noble Truths,
 - The Three signs of existence (Tilakkhana),
 - The analysis of empirical existence (kandhayatanadhatu),
 - The doctrine of dependent origination,
 - Doctrines of Kamma,
 - Buddhist ethics,
 - Nirvana and the path leading to its realisation.
- A study of the life of the Buddha emphasizing his magnanimous qualities is also expected.

BUDDHIST SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

A study of the Buddhist teachings bearing on the following social concepts: human society, its origin and evolution, individual and social relations; oneness of mankind and the supremacy of man; state and government; economy and the use of economic resources; animate and inanimate environment; law, justice and punishment. Buddhist ethics and the Buddhist social norms as reflected in the organization of the Buddhist monastic order should also form an integral part of this study.

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPANSION OF THERAVADA BUDDHISM

A study of the inception and spread of Theravada Buddhism in the countries of South East Asia, with the main emphasis on the following aspects: the geographical expansion of Buddhism in the pre-Asokan period; its emergence as a world religion during the reign of Emperor Asoka; the spread of Theravada Buddhism in South India and in the regions of South East Asia (e.g. Burma, Thailand); religious inter-courses between Theravada countries; contemporary Theravada Buddhism.

EARLY HISTORY OF BUDDHISM UP TO THE 3RD CENTURY BC

A general knowledge of the history of Buddhism from the enlightenment of the Buddha up to the Buddhist missionary activities launched in the reign of Emperor Asoka is expected here. In this study, special attention should be paid to the following topics: Expansion of Buddha's ministry during his lifetime; establishment of the Bhikkhu and Bhikkhuni orders; origin and development of Buddhist monasteries; causes that led to the first three Buddhist Councils and their contribution to Buddhism and its literature; emergence of Buddhist schools and their impact on the development of Buddhist thought; relationship between Buddhism and the state up to the period of Emperor Asoka; spread of Buddhism beyond Indian frontiers.

PALI QUALIFYING PAPER

A general knowledge of Pali language and grammar is expected for this paper. Since this paper is fundamental to widen the knowledge of Pali and the Buddhist doctrine, the following texts are prescribed. Foreign students have to be able to read Romanized Pali.

Prescribed texts:

1. Dhammapada – Citta Vagga and Puppha Vagga
2. Pali Pathavali by Ven. A. P. Buddhaddatta (1-10 Lessons)
Edited by Prof. N. A. Jayawickrama, Buddhist Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka
3. Pali Buddhist Texts Explained to the Beginner
by Rune E. A. Johansson (1-30 Lessons)
Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies Monograph Series No. 14
Curzon Press, Oxford & IBH
4. New Pali Course Part I by Ven. A. P. Buddhaddatta
Buddhist Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka

Updated: 27 August, 2009