Lumbini Buddhist University

Course of Study

M.A. in Theravada Buddhism

Lumbini Buddhist University
Office of the Dean
Senepa, Kathmandu
Nepal
History of Buddhism

M.A. Theravada Buddhism
First Year
Paper I-A
Full Mark: 50
MATB 501
Teaching Hours: 75

Unit I: Introductory Background 15
1. Sources of History of Buddhism
2. Introduction of Janapada and Mahajanapadas of 5th century BC
3. Buddhism as religion and philosophy

Unit II: Origin and Development of Buddhism 15
1. Life of Buddha from birth to Mahaparinirvan
2. Buddhist Councils
3. Introduction to Eighteen Nikayas
4. Rise of Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism

Unit III: Expansion of Buddhism in Asia 15
1. Expansion of Buddhism in South:
   a. Sri Lanka
   b. Myanmar
   c. Thailand
   d. Laos,
   e. Cambodia
2. Expansion of Buddhism in North
   a. China,
   b. Japan,
   c. Korea,
   d. Mongolia
   e. Tibet,

Unit IV: Buddhist Learning Centres 15
1. Vihars as seat of Education Learning Centres (Early Vihar establishments)
2. Development of Learning Centres:
a. Taxila Nalanda,
b. Vikramashila,
c. Odantapuri,
d. Jagadalla,
e. Vallabi, etc.

3. Fall of Ancient Buddhist Learning Centre

Unit IV: Revival of Buddhism in India in modern times

1. Social-Religious Movement during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
2. Movement of the Untouchables in the twentieth century.

Suggested Readings

5. Dutt, Sukumar, Buddhist Monks and Monasteries of India: Their History & Their Contributions To Indian Culture, London: George Allen and Unwin, 1962.


Buddhism of Nepal

MA. in Theravada Buddhism  First Year
Paper I-B  Full mark 50
MATB 502  Teaching Hours: 75

Unit I : Historical Background  15
1. Swayambhu Puran as source of Buddhism of Nepal
2. Visit of Buddha, Anada and Ashoka to the Nepal Valley
3. Buddhism through Ages - (Historical account of Buddhism during Licchivi, Early Mediaval and Mediaval period
   a. Classification of Age
   b. Historical Account of Buddhism during Kirat, Lichchhavi, Early and Later Medieval Period.
   c. Buddhism during the Lichhavi Period
   d. Contribution of Lichhavi rulers to the promotion of Buddhism in Nepal
   e. Buddhism during early and later medieval period
   f. Contribution of contemporary rulers in the development of the Buddhism of Nepal.

Unit II : Buddhism of Nepal Mandala  20
1. Concept of Triple Gem (Tri Ratna)
2. Classification of Vihars of Nepal Mandala and their tradition.
3. Religious practices:
   a. Daily practices,
   b. Occasional Practices: Vrata
   c. Dan (generosity) practices, Panchadana, Samyakdan, and Navadana
4. Feast and festivals
   a. Chariot festival of Karunamay of Kathmandu and Lalitpur,
   b. Gunla, Mataya, of Lalitpur
5. Principle Buddhist sites of Nepal Manadala
a. Svayambhu,
b. Boudha,
c. Namo-Buddha,
d. Manichud,
e. Pharping

Unit III: Buddhism of Khasa Kingdom  5
1. Introduction to Khasa Kingdom
2. Contributions of Khasa Kings to the promotion of Buddhism in Western Nepal
   a. Ripu Malla,
   b. Prithvi Malla,
   c. Punya Malla and
d) Jitari Malla.

Unit IV: Buddhism of Northern Nepal  15
1. Introduction to Northern Nepal
2. Buddhist Ethnic groups of Northern Nepal
3. Prominent sects
   a. Nyingmapa,
   b. Kagyupa,
   c. Sakyapa,
   d. Gelupa
4. Prominent Gumbas
   a. Tengboche (Solu),
   b. Bigu Tashi (Dolkha),
   c. Tsarang (Mustang),
   d. Shey (Dolpa)
5. Feast and festivals
   a. Losar,
   b. Yartung,
   c. Manirumdum,
   d. Tiji,
e. Dumje
6. Important Buddhist Sites
   a. Maratika,
Unit V : Thervada Buddhism in Nepal

1. Revival of Thervada Buddhism in 19th century
3. Present state of Theravada Buddhism in Nepal
4. Monastic functions
   a. Ordination
   b. Order
5. Theravada Buddhist Practices
   a. Kathindan and Varshabas
   b. Mahaparitran
   c. Uposatha
   d. Buddha-Puja

Suggested Reading

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<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher/Place</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Locke, John K.</td>
<td><em>Buddhist Monasteries of Nepal</em></td>
<td>Kathmandu: Sahayogi Press</td>
<td>1985</td>
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<td><em>Karunamaya: The cult of Avalokitesvara in the Valley of Nepal</em></td>
<td>Kathmandu: CNAS</td>
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<td><em>Buddhism: the Icon of Cultural Linkage with China</em></td>
<td>Kathmandu: Nepal China Society</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Pradhan, Bhuvan L.</td>
<td><em>Nepalma Bouddha Dharma</em></td>
<td>Kathmandu: Royal Nepal Academy</td>
<td>1990</td>
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<td>Rajendra Ram</td>
<td><em>History of Buddhism in Nepal (A.D. 704-1396)</em></td>
<td>Patna: Janabharati Prakashan</td>
<td>1977</td>
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<td>Shakya, Min B. and Shanta Harsha Bajracharya (tr.)</td>
<td><em>Svayambhu Purana</em></td>
<td>Lalitpur: NIEM</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Shrestha, Khadga Man</td>
<td><em>History of Buddhism of Nepal with Special Reference to Vajrayana Buddhism of Nepal</em></td>
<td>Kathmandu: Kamala Devi Shrestha</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Thapa, Shanker and Indra Kumari Bajracharya, Ratnakar Mahavihara</td>
<td><em>A Vajrayana Buddhist Monastery of Patan</em></td>
<td>New Delhi: Adroit Publisher</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Thapa, Shanker</td>
<td><em>Buddhist Sanskrit Literature of Nepal</em></td>
<td>Seoul: Minjoksa Publishing Co.</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Thapa, Shanker</td>
<td><em>Newar Buddhism: History, Scholarship and Literature</em></td>
<td>Lalitpur: Nagarjuna Publications</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Objective

The main objective of this course is to give basic knowledge of Pali language so that students will be able to study Pali Buddhist Literature.

Unit I: Alphabet, Gender and Number 10
1. The Alphabet and Pronunciation
2. Gender, Number, Case and Case ending

Unit II Conjugation of Verbs (Kriya Vibhaktirupa) 15
1. Present Tense
2. Past Tense
3. Future Tense
4. Imperative

Unit III: Sandhi and Compound (Sandhi and Samas) 10
1. Sandhi Chapter (Sandhi- Kappa)
2. Compound Chapter (Samasa - Kappa)

Unit IV: Declension of Nouns and Pronouns (Nam and Sarvanam Vibhaktirupa) 15
1. Masculine Nouns Ending in - a and i
2. Feminine Nouns Ending in –ā and i
3. Neuter Nouns Ending in - a and i
4. Interrogative Pronoun
5. Personal Pronoun

Unit V: Study of Selected Pali Stories from Jātakatthakathā. 25
1. Serivānijajātaka
2. Malutajātaka
3. Gangeyyajātaka

References
Buddhist Literature

M.A. in Theravada Buddhism First Year
Paper II-B Full Mark: 50
MATB 508 Teaching Hours: 75

Unit I: Introductory Background 10
1. Evolution of “Buddha Vacana” to Buddhist Literature
2. Meaning of Dharma as “Buddha Vacana” in the context of Tri-Ratna i.e. Buddha, Dharma and Sangha with special reference to eighty four thousand “Dharma Skanda”
3. Introduction to Navang (Nine Angas) and Dwadasang (Twelve Angas)

Unit II: Formation of Pali Literature 20
1. Origin and development of Pali Tripitaka
2. Sutta
3. Vinaya
4. Abhidhamma
5. Athakatha
6. Anupitaka

Unit III: Formation of Sanskrit Tripitaka 20
1. Origin and development of Sanskrit literature
2. Agama
3. Sutra,
4. Vinaya,
5. Abhidharma,
6. Tantra
7. Shastra.

Unit IV: Translated Canons - Origin and Development. 15
1. Chinese Tripitaka
2. Korean Tripitaka
3. Tibetan Tripitaka
4. Mongolian Tripitaka
Unit V: Buddhist Tripitaka in the Digital age

1. e-resources of Buddhist manuscripts,
2. e-books and translations of Buddhist texts

Suggested Readings

1. Beal, Samuel, *Buddhist Tripitaka as it is Known in China and Japan*, London: Clarke and Son, 1876.


Buddhist Philosophy

M.A. in Theravada Buddhism  First Year
Paper III  Full Mark: 50
MATB 509  Teaching Hours: 75

Objectives

The course aims to impart the students knowledge on general Buddhist Philosophy and traditions. It helps them understand the reality of the universe and human beings’ existence within cosmological, theological and philosophical understandings and the ways these motivate ordinary and extraordinary human lives.

The course is categorized into seven units. General Buddhist concepts following which Buddhists advance in their practice are included in Unit First and those which are known as basic Buddhist teachings are the subjects under Unit Second. Unit Third gives a brief introduction to Buddhist meditation. Unit Four introduces four philosophical schools of Buddhism and Buddhist logics that serve as bases for further readings. Unit Five includes some important Mahayanic concepts. Unit six throws light on Vajrayana Philosophy and Practice. Unit Seven deals with common Buddhist principles on Karma and rebirth, common Buddhist practices, role of laity in Buddhism, monasticism, social dimension of Buddhism etc. earlier Buddhist meditation practice.

Unit I: General Buddhist concepts  5
1. Triratna (Triple Gems)
2. Trisarana (Triple refuge)
3. Punyasambhara and Jnanasambhara (Accumulation of merits and knowledge)
4. Panca-Sila (Five precepts)
Unit II: Buddhist Teachings Theravada

1. Four Noble Truths
2. Suffering
3. Arising of Suffering
4. Cessation of Suffering
5. The path leading to cessation of suffering
6. Law of Dependent Origination
7. Interdependence
8. Relativity
9. Conditionality
10. Twelve linked cycle of origination
11. Three Universal Characteristics
   a. Impermanence
   b. Suffering
   c. Selflessness
12. Arahant and Nirvana
13. Bodhisattva and Buddhahood in Sravakyana

Unit III: Buddhist Meditation

1. Samatha Meditation: Its objectives, types and importance
2. Vipasyana Meditation: its objectives, types and importance

Unit IV: Four Philosophical Buddhist Doctrines and Buddhist Logics

1. Vaibhasika doctrine
   a. Meaning, sub-schools and etymology
   b. Theory of Dharmas of Sarvastivada
   c. Concept of Pratisankhyanirodha and Apratisankhyanirodha, Prapti, Aprapti, Avijnapti
2. Sautrantic doctrine
   a. Meaning, sub schools and etymology
   b. Theory of Momentary-ness
   c. Concept of Perception and Apperception
3. Madhyamika doctrine
   a. Meaning, sub-schools and etymology
b. Two Truths: SamvrittiSatya and ParmarthaSatya

c. Concept of Sunyata, Anutpada, Catuskoti (Fourfold analysis)

4. Yogacara Doctrine
   a. Meaning, sub-schools and etymology
   b. Theory of “Mind Only” (Cittamatratā-Vijnaptimatasiddhi)
   c. Concept of Alayavijnana, Klistamanovijnana and Pravṛttivijnana
   d. Three nature of objects Parikalpita, Paratantra and Parinispanna nature

5. Buddhist Logics
   a. Origin
   b. Pramana
   c. Buddhist epistemology
   d. Syllogism

Unit V : Mahayana Philosophy

1. Bodhisattva Ideals, Bodhicitta generation, Bodhisattva precepts
2. Developing Bodhisattva Perfections (sadaparamita)
3. Ten stages of Bodhisattva
4. Concept of Tri-Kaya: Dharmakaya, Sambhogakaya, Nirmanakaya
5. Concept of Tathagata and Tathagatagarbha
6. Pudgalanairatmya and Dharmanairatmya
7. Klesavarana and Jñayavarana
8. Recitation of sutras and Dharanis

Unit VI: Vajrayana Philosophy and Practice

1. Vajrayana Philosophy
   a. Vajrayana: meaning, and objectives
   b. Mantra, mandala, and Tantra
   c. Philosophical foundations
   d. The concepts of Sunyata and Chittamatra and their implication in Vajrayana
e. Symbolism and Concept of Pancha-Buddha
f. Vajrayana Psychology, Physiology and Cosmology

2. Vajrayana Practice
   a. Vajrayana Initiation
   b. Vajrayana Meditation
   c. Four Systems of Tantric thought in Buddhism and its goals

Unit VII: Buddhist Ethics, Monasticism and their Social Dimension

1. Universalistic features of Buddhist ethics, Karma and its effects
2. Concept of Karma, rebirth, karma and motivation. Criteria for good and bad action
3. Monasticism
   a. Concept and Origin
   b. Monastic values: celibacy, role of monasticism
   c. Monasticism in Earlier Buddhism
   d. Monasticism in Later Buddhism, Mahayana reassessment of monasticism.
4. Social Dimensions (of the goal) of Nibbana and Buddhahood
5. Laity in Buddhism
6. Skillful Means

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<td>Dharmashala: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives 1982</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Narendradeva</td>
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<td><em>Studies in the Origins of Buddhism</em></td>
<td>New Delhi; MLBD, 1995 (reprint)</td>
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<td><em>The Ethics of Buddhism</em></td>
<td>Oxford; Curzon Press, 1926</td>
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<td>New Delhi, Munshiram Manoharlala Publisher Pvt. Ltd. 2001</td>
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<td><em>The Buddha’s Ancient Path</em></td>
<td>London; Rider and Co., 1964</td>
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<td>Varanasi: Chowkhamba Vidyabhavan, 1978</td>
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Buddhist Art and Architecture

M.A. in Theravada Buddhism First Year
Paper IV Full Mark: 100
MATB 510 Teaching Hours: 150

Course description

The course is divided into four parts. The first part is related to general introduction of art and Buddhist Scripts. The second part is devoted to origin and development of Buddhist art and architecture. The third part is concentrated on Nepalese Buddhist art and the fourth part is related to Buddhist Iconography.

Objective

The main objective of the course is to provide basic knowledge of Buddhist Art and Architecture as well as Buddhist Script and Iconography.

Part One
General Introduction

Unit I: General introduction to Art 15
1. Evolution, Meaning, Concept and Significance of Art
2. Introduction to Eastern and western Art
3. Types of Art
   1. Visual art
      a) Fine Art
      b) Applied Art
      c) Decorative Art
      d) Crafts
   2. Abstract art,
   4. Basic Principles of Art
Unit II: Introduction to Buddhist Scripts

1. Origin of Brahmi Script as a Pall writing system
2. Brahmi Alphabets and its translation practice
3. Ashokan Pillar Inscriptions
   1. Lumbini and
   2. Niglihava
4. Features and Alphabets of Pracalit Newari Script and its translation practice

Part Two

Origin and development of Buddhist Art and Architecture

Unit III: Literary sources and Origin of Buddhist Symbolic Art

1. Buddha’s View on Art
2. Types of Buddhist Art
   a. Sippa or Sippayatana and
   b. Senis -craft unions of Buddha’s period
3. Paintings of Buddha's period
   a. Cloth paintings,
   b. Wall paintings
4. Sculpture of Buddha's period, Buddha images and other sculptures mentioned in Pali and Sanskrit literature)
5. Origin of symbolic art in Buddhism

Unit IV: Development of Buddhist Art Schools

1. Buddhist art in Mauryan period
2. Buddhist Art of Sunga, Satavahana period
3. Mathra school of art (Kushana & Gupta)
4. Gandhara school of art (Kushana)
5. Amaravati school of art (Andhra)
6. Sarnath school of art (Gupta)
7. Pala School of Art

Unit V: Origin and Development of Buddhist Architecture
Part Three
Buddhist Art of Nepal

Unit VI: Origin and Development of Buddhist Art in Nepal

1. Origin of Buddhist art in Nepal
2. Features and techniques of Paubha Painting and Thanka Painting
3. Medieval Buddhist Paintings of Nepal
4. Introduction to Buddhist Fresco and Manuscript Paintings of Nepal

Unit VII: Buddhist Sculptures of Nepal

1. Buddhist Sculptures of Licchavi Period (Stone sculptures)
2. Techniques of Metal casting in Nepal (Lost wax casting)
3. General introduction to Repose Art of Nepal
4. Features of Medieval Buddhist Sculptures of Nepal (Metal and Wood)

Part IV
Buddhist Iconography
Unit VIII: Iconography of Buddhist Deities

1. Meaning and Concept of Iconography
2. Chief features of Buddhist Iconography:
   a. Colour,
   b. Posture,
   c. Gesture,
   d. Drapery,
   e. Ornaments and
   f. Attributes
3. General Introduction to Buddhist Iconographical texts:
   a. Sadhanamala,
   b. Sadhanasamucchaya,
   c. Kriyasangraha,
   d. Devapratimalaksana,
   e. Manjushreesadhana,
   f. Nispannayogavali

Unit IX: Iconography of selected deities

1. Dipankar Buddha, Shakyamuni Buddha and Bhaisarjya Buddha
2. Boddhisattva Maitreya, Padmapani, Vajrapani and Manjusri
3. Vajrasattva, Vajradhara and Panchabuddha
4. Arya Tara, Prajnaparmita and Vasundhara
5. Chakrasambhara, Heyvajra

Unit X: Art and Rituals

1. Brief Introduction to Ritual Art
2. Mandala

Reference Book


33. Vajracharya, Manavajra, *Nepalko Madhyakalin Kala*, Kathmandu: Sucana Vibhaga,

35. Regmi, Dineshchandra, *Puralekhan ra Abhilekha*, Dillibazar (Kathmandu): Himalaya Book Stal, BS 2060
Research Methodology

M.A. in Theravada Buddhism

First Year

Paper V-A

Full Mark: 50(40+10)

MATB 513

Teaching Hours: 75

Objectives

Overall objective of the Research Methodology is to make student capable to perform in-depth research and write research papers. Specific objectives of the subject are to enable students:

1. To prepare research proposal, conduct a research and prepare a research paper prescribed by university
2. To pursue research independently
3. To understand techniques and art in social science research relating to Buddhist Studies
4. To create own new vision on subject title with respect to Buddhist Studies
5. To identify and answer the research questions/problems

Unit I: Introductory Background

1. Concept and importance of Research
2. Types of Research
   a. Descriptive and analytical,
   b. Quantitative and qualitative
   c. Historical and survey methods

Unit II: Sources and Types of Information

1. Types of evidence in Buddhist Studies
2. Nature of Information
   a. Original,
   b. Primary and
   c. Secondary
3. Collection of information
a. Observation
b. Interview,
c. Questionnaire/Schedule
4. Developing of Tools - Sampling
5. Archaeological (artistic and monumental information) evidence in Buddhist Studies

**Unit III : Manuscriptology and Buddhist Studies** 20
1. Concept of manuscriptology
2. Types of manuscriptology
3. Production and preservation
4. Pali and Sanskrit manuscript in South Asia
5. Textual criticism in Buddhist Manuscripts

**Unit IV : Practical Aspect of Research Methodology** 20
1. Selection of Topics
2. Statement/Identification of Research Problem
3. Scope, Limitation and Rational of the topic
4. Review of literature
5. Citation, Footnote and Bibliography
6. Preparation of research paper
7. Presentation (Graphical, tabulation, charts, figures, photographs, etc.)

**Unit V: Research Proposal — Research Paper** 5

Students are required to submit a research paper under the guidance of supervisor/professor/lecturer as a part of internal examination.

**Suggested Readings**

Buddhism and Society

M.A. in Theravada Buddhism                      First Year
Paper V-B                                       Full Mark: 50
MATB 514                                        Teaching Hours: 75

Course Objective

This course is designed with an objective to impart knowledge on social significance of Buddhism in modern times. It begins with learning from some of the selected Pali and Sanskrit Sutras. Students will learn about the role of Buddhism in social development as well as impact in the society.

Unit I: Buddhism and Society - Study of Selected Pali and Sanskrit Sutra  
1. Gilana sutta, Jivaka Sutta, Kula Sutta, Dhammika Sutta, Dighajanu Sutta,
2. Sigalovada Sutta, Kutadanta Sutta, Cakkavatti Simhanada Sutta.
3. Mangala Sutta, Parabhava Sutta
4. Ugraparipriccha Sutra, Gandavyuha Sutra, Lalitvistara Sutra and
5. Namasangiti Sutra

Unit II: Buddhism and Social Development  
1. Buddhism and Social Involvement.
2. Buddhism in Syncretic Shape.
4. Buddhism and Social Action (generosity, helping, teaching, community service)

Unit III: Buddhism and Lay Society  
1. Introduction and practice of lay Buddhism
2. Vinaya for laity
3. Laity and the Sangha
Unit IV: Buddhism and Ethnic Communities of Nepal

1. Introduction of Buddhist Communities in Nepal
   a. Newar
   b. Tamang
   c. Magar
   d. Tharu
   e. Gurung
   f. Thakali
   g. Sherpa

2. Buddhist Ritual practices of Ethnic Communities

3. Tools for propagation of Buddhism in Ethnic Communities
   a. Dhamma Desana
   b. Pariyatti Education
   c. Canonical language course
   d. Buddhist Awakening programs
   e. National conference of Dharmodaya Sabha
   f. Ordination programs
   g. Vesakpurnima

Unit V: Impact of Buddhist Teachings in the Modern Society

1. Theoretical framework to apply spiritual principles to collective social issues
2. Impact of Buddha's Teachings in Politics, Economy and Environment

Suggested readings
1. Selected Suttas from Pali Nikayas
2. Selected Sanskrit Sutras

