

Postgraduate Certificate Course in Pali

Scope and Content of the Course

The Certificate course in Pali is designed to develop students' skills in reading and comprehending Pali sources and to enhance their knowledge of different aspects of the Pali language and literature. This certificate course consists of the following course units designed to cover basic Pali grammar, reading and comprehension of selected Pali passages, and genres of Pali literature:

PGCP 01: Readings in Pali Texts

PGCP 02: Basic Pali Grammar

PGCP 03: Introduction to Pali Literature

Aim of the Course

The aim of this certificate course is to provide the students with basic language skills that they need to pursue their research studies in the field of Pali and Buddhist Studies and also to serve as a foundation course for the Postgraduate Diploma in Pali course offered by the Institute.

Eligibility for Admission

No prior knowledge in Pali is required to enroll in this course provided that the applicants fulfill one of the following requirements.

- i. A Degree from a recognized university
or
- ii. A pass at the final examination of the Oriental Studies Society (Sri Lanka)
or
- iii. Any other qualification acceptable to the Faculty Board of the Institute

Course Structure

The course duration is 120 hours, running for three terms of ten weeks each. The PGCP 01 course unit will have a minimum of a two-hour lesson per week and PGCP 02 and PGCP 03 course units will have a one-hour lesson per week in the form of a lecture followed by tutorial guidance and discussions.

Method of Evaluation

- i. Two assignments for each course unit: 20 marks per assignment
- ii. In-class participation: 10 marks for each course unit
- iii. Three-hour final year examination for each course unit: 50 marks per course unit

Grades

70 - 100 - A - Distinction

60 – 69 - B - Credit

40 – 59 - C - Pass

00 – 39 - W - Weak

(i) Merit Pass

An average of 70 marks for all units with not less than 40 for any unit.

(ii) Pass

40 Marks for each unit or 35-39 marks for one unit with an average of 40 for all units is considered pass.

Syllabus for the Postgraduate Certificate Course in Pali

Course Code: PGCP 01

Course Title: Readings in Pali Texts

Aim

To gradually develop the students' reading and comprehension skills, and their ability to analyze grammar of the selected passages from the prescribed texts.

Content

The content of this course includes the Pali passages selected from the Aṅguttaranikāya, the Dīghanikāya, the Majjhimanikāya, the Suttanipāta, the Dhammapadatṭhakathā and the Jātakaṭṭhakathā, the Mahāvagga of the Vinayaṭṭhaka and the Rasavāhinī.

Duration: 60 hours

Method of Teaching

Lectures, translations, discussions and assignments

Method of Evaluation

Two assignments

In-class participation

Final examination

Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, the students will be able to analyze the sentence patterns and read the Pali sentences correctly.

Recommended References

Anuruddha, Kakkapalliye, (2010). *A Guide to the Study of Pali: The Language of Theravada Buddhism*, Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, The University of Hong Kong.

Buddhadatta Mahāthera, A. P. (1968). *Concise Pali-English Dictionary*, Colombo: The Colombo Apothecaries.

James, W. Gair and W.S. Karunatilaka, (1998). *A New Course in Reading Pali: Entering to Word of the Buddha*, Delhi: Motilal Banarshidass.

Course Code: PGCP 02

Course Title: Basic Pali Grammar

Aim

This course is designed to develop in the students the language skills required to read and comprehend Pali prose passages and verses.

Content

Pali grammar particularly relating to following topics: sound system, nouns and declensions, verbs and conjugations, numerals, pronouns, participles, gerunds, infinitives, causatives, euphonic combinations (*sandhi*), syntax (*kāraka*) and indeclinables (*nipāta* and *upasagga*) will be covered by this course.

Duration: 30 hours

Method of Teaching

Lectures, translations, discussions and assignments

Method of Evaluation

Two assignments

In-class participation

Final examination

Expected Learning Outcomess

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of Pali grammar for the purpose of textual analysis;
2. Read and understand Pali texts with the help, where necessary, of a Pali dictionary;
3. Translate simple Pali sentences into English.

Recommended References

Ananda Maitreya, Balangoda, (1997). *Pali Made Easy*, Dehiwala: Buddhist Cultural Centre.

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

Buddhadatta Mahāthera, A. P. (1968). *Concise Pali-English Dictionary*, Colombo: The Colombo Apothecaries.

De Silva, Lily, (1994). *Pali Primer*, Dhammagiri: Vipassana Research Institute.

Thera, Narada (1953). *An Elementary Pali Course*, Taiwan: The Corporate Body of Buddha Educational Foundation.

Course Code: PGCP 03

Course Title: Introductions to Pali Literature

Aim

This paper is designed to provide the students with an overview of the Pali literature

Content

This course unit consists of following topics: Theravada canon, post-canonical literature including pre-commentarial works, commentaries, sub-commentaries, Pakaranas, Poetry and other genres of Pali literature.

Duration: 30 hours

Method of Teaching

Lectures, discussions and assignments

Method of Evaluation

Two assignments

In-class participation

Final examination

Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, the students will be able to outline the different genres of Pali literature

Recommended References

Adikaram, E.W. (1994). *Early History of Buddhism in Ceylon*, Dehiwala: Buddhist Cultural Centre.

Goonasekere, L.R. (1967) . *Buddhist Commentarial Literature*. (The Wheel No. 133/114). Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.

Hinüber, Oskar Von. (2001). *Handbook of Pali Literature*, New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.

Jayawardhana, S. (1994). *Handbook of Pali Literature*, Colombo: Karunaratne and Sons.

Law, B.C. (2000). *A History of Pali Literature*, Varanasi: Indica Books.

Malalasekera, G.P. (1994). *The Pali Literature of Ceylon*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.

Norman, K.R. (1983). *Pāli Literature: Including the Canonical Literature in Prakrit and Sanskrit of All the Hīnayāna Schools of Buddhism*. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz.