

DIPLOMA IN PĀLI AND BUDDHIST STUDIES

Spring 2021 (4th semester)

DPBS 13052: Buddhist Cultural Diversity in Asia

CREDIT HOURS: 2 (30 hours)

DATES: May 15-16, May 29-30, June 12-13, June 26-27

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ven. Welimadagama Kusaladhamma (Senior Professor, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka)

COURSE CONTENT

This course introduces Buddhist cultural diversity of Asian Buddhist countries. Accordingly, the course surveys Buddhist cultures of India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, China, Japan, Korea, and so on. The selected topics discuss introduction of Buddhism into each country and its expansion; the community of Buddhist Saṅgha; philosophical and doctrinal trends; impact of Buddhism on society, politics, education etc.; Buddhist rituals; Buddhist art and architecture; religious relationship among Buddhist countries.

SCHEDULE AND SUBJECT OUTLINE

Dates	Lecture Topics
May 15 (Sat): 7:00-10:00 PM Sri Lanka/ May 15 (Sat): 8:30-11:30 AM CDT	Introduction to Course Origin, Development, Expansion and Decline of Buddhism in India
May 16 (Sun): 7:00-9:00 AM Sri Lanka/ May 15 (Sat): 8:30-10:30 PM CDT	Introduction and Development of Buddhism I: South and South East Asian Countries
May 16 (Sun): 7:00-10:00 PM Sri Lanka/ May 16 (Sun): 8:30-11:30 AM CDT	Introduction and Development of Buddhism II: Central and East Asian Countries
May 29 (Sat): 7:00-10:00 PM Sri Lanka/ May 29 (Sat): 8:30-11:30 AM CDT	The Community of Buddhist Saṅgha
May 30 (Sun): 7:00-9:00 AM Sri Lanka/ May 29 (Sat): 8:30-10:30 PM CDT	Philosophical and Doctrinal Trends
May 30 (Sun): 7:00-10:00 PM Sri Lanka May 30 (Sun): 8:30-11:30 AM CDT	Impact of Buddhism on society, politics, education etc.
June 12 (Sat): 8:00-10:00 PM Singapore / June 12 (Sat): 7:00-10:00 AM CDT	Guest speaker: Assoc. Prof. Kan, Koon-Hwee (Kent State U) Topic: Buddhist Cultural Diversity in China (Art and architecture, social-political connection of Buddhism in China, influence of Buddhism on international relations of China, position of Buddhism in social-cultural revival, etc.)

June 13 (Sun): 7:00-9:00 AM Sri Lanka/ June 12 (Sat): 8:30-10:30 PM CDT	Buddhist rituals
June 13 (Sun): 7:00-10:00 PM Sri Lanka/ June 13 (Sun): 8:30-11:30 AM CDT	Buddhist art and architecture I
June 26 (Sat): 7:00-10:00 PM Sri Lanka/ June 26 (Sat): 8:30-11:30 AM CDT	Buddhist art and architecture II
June 27 (Sun): 7:00-10:00 PM Sri Lanka/ June 27 (Sun): 8:30-11:30 AM CDT	Mock exam, revision

RECOMMENDED READINGS

1. Banerjee, A.C., Buddhism in India and Abroad, Calcutta, 1973.
2. Chen, Kenneth, Buddhism in China: A Historical Survey, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1964.
3. Coogan, Michael, Eastern Religions, Oxford, 2005.
4. Crim, Keith, ed. The Perennial Dictionary of World Religions. San Francisco: Harper, 1981.
5. Fisher, Robert E. Buddhist Art and Architecture, London: Thames & Hudson, An overview of South and East Asian development, 1993.
6. Hazra, K.L., History of Theravada Buddhism in South-east Asia, New Delhi, 1982.
7. Harvey, Peter. An Introduction to Buddhism. NY: CUP, 1990.
8. Hinnells, John R., ed. New Penguin Handbook of Living Religions. England: Penguin, 2010.
9. Loez, Donald S., Jr. The Story of Buddhism: A Concise Guide to its History and Teachings, New York: HarperCollins, 2002.
10. Paranavitana, S., Art and Architecture of Ceylon, Polonnaruwa Period, Colombo, 1954.
11. Rahula, W., History of Buddhism in Ceylon, Colombo, 1956.
12. Ridley, M., The Art of World Religions: Buddhism, New York, 1980.
13. Singhal, D. P., Buddhism in East Asia, Books and Books Publisher, New Delhi, 1984.
14. Sivarasa, Sulak. Conflict, Culture, Change: Engaged Buddhism in a Globalizing World. Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications. A recent book by an important Thai Buddhist Social critic, 2005.
15. Smith, Huston. The World's Religions. San Francisco: Harper, 1991.
16. Voorst, Robert E. Van. Anthology of World Religions. Washington: Wardsworth, 1992.
17. Willard G. Oxtoby, World Religions Eastern Tradition, 4th edition, Oxford, 2014.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

1. www.accesstoinsight.org
2. www.buddhanet.net
3. www.dharmanet.org
4. www.buddhamind.info
5. www.dhamma.org
6. www.buddhanet.net
7. www.freetibet.org