

SYLLABUS FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

Basic Doctrines of Early Buddhism (PDBS02)

	Course Particulars
Course Code:	PDBS 02
Course Title:	Basic Doctrines of Early Buddhism (BDEB)
Aim:	A Comprehensive understanding of fundamental teachings of Early Buddhism
Course Content:	This course is designed to provide insight into the main teachings of early Buddhism through a study of the following themes: the Buddhist view of sentient existence as shown by the three signata (<i>tilakkhaṇa</i>) and the doctrine of dependent co-origination (<i>paṭicca-samuppāda</i>); the analysis of empiric individuality into <i>khandā</i> , <i>āyatana</i> and <i>dhātu</i> and the rejection of the physical and metaphysical views of the self; the Buddhist diagnosis of the human condition and the ideal of man's perfection and deliverance as set forth in the Four Noble Truths; analysis of mind and its relevance to mental culture; ethical teachings and social religious ideals; the epistemological standpoint and the empiricist predilection; the critique of metaphysical speculations (<i>diṭṭhi</i>) and the category of the undetermined (<i>avyākata</i>); the distinctive characteristics of Buddhism as a religion and a philosophy
Course Objectives / Expected Learning Outcomes:	Ability to describe Buddhist fundamental concepts.
Duration:	30 hours @10 lessons (Online via Zoom)
Method of Teaching:	Lectures, discussions and assignments
Method of Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two assignments each • In class participation • Year-end Final Examination:

Recommended References:

- Boisvert, Mathieu, (1963). *The Five Aggregates: Understanding Theravada Psychology and Soteriology*, Ontario: Canadian Cooperation for Studies in Religion.
- Conze, Edward, (2003). *Buddhism, its Essence and Development*, Dover Publications Ins.: Mineola, New York.
- Fuller, Paul, (2005). *Notion of Diṭṭhi in Theravāda Buddhism*, London: Routledge Curzon.
- Hamilton, Sue, (2000). *Early Buddhism: A New Approach, The Eye of the Beholder*, Curzon Press: Surrey.
- Kalupahana, D.J., (2007). *A Source Book of Early Buddhist Philosophy*, Dehiwala: Buddhist Cultural Centre.
- _____, (2006). *Karma and Rebirth: Foundations of Buddhist Moral Philosophy*, Dehiwala: Buddhist Cultural Centre.
- _____, (1977). *Buddhist Philosophy: A Historical Analysis*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii.
- _____, (1975). *Causality: The Central Philosophy of Buddhism*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii.
- Karunadasa, Y., (2013). *Early Buddhist Teachings: The Middle Position in Theory and Practice*, Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies.
- Karunaratne, W.S., (1988). *The Theory of Causality*, Nugegoda: Indumati Karunaratne.
- Nyantiloka Maha Thera, Ven., (1982). *Path to Deliverance* (Reprint), Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.
- Piyadassi Thera, Ven., (1964). *The Buddha's Ancient Path*. London.
- Rahula, Ven. Walpola, (1959). *What the Buddha Taught*, Bedford.
- Sangharakshita, (1976). *A Survey of Buddhism*, Bangalore.
- Tachibana, S. (1961). *The Ethics of Buddhism*, Colombo