

SYLLABUS FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

Buddhist Social Philosophy

	Course Particulars
Course Code:	PDBS 03
Course Title:	Buddhist Social Philosophy (BSP)
Aim:	An analytical and evaluative study of the social philosophy of Buddhism based on the discourses of the Pali canon
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>khaṇḍa</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 analyze fundamental concepts of Buddhist social philosophy in relation to Pali suttas.
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:

- Aronson, Harvey B., (1980). *Love and Sympathy in Theravada Buddhism*, Delhi.
- Dharmasiri, G., (1986). *Fundamentals of Buddhist Ethics*, Singapore.
- Diana Y. Paul, (1979). *Women in Buddhism*, California.
- Gnanarama, Ven. Pategama, (1998). *Aspects of Early Buddhist Social Thought*, Singapore: Tisarana Buddhist Association.
- Gokuldas, D., (1955). *Democracy in Early Buddhist Sangha*, Calcutta.
- Jayatileke, K. N., (2000). *The Message of the Buddha*, ed. Ninian Smart, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.
- _____, (1969). *Aspects of Buddhist Social Philosophy*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society
- Jones, Ken, (1981). *Buddhism and Social Action*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.
- Katz, Nathan, (1979). *Buddhist Image of Human Perfection*, Delhi.
- Ling, Trevor, (1966). *Buddha, Marx and God*, New York.
- _____, (1951). *The Buddha*, London.
- Malalasekera, G.P., and Jayatileke K. N., (1981). *Buddhism and the Race Question*, UNESCO.
- Wijesekara, O.H. de A., (1972). *Buddhism and Society*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society.