<b>Course Code</b>	MABS 68
Course Title	Readings in Buddhist Sanskrit Texts
	This course consists of two parts, each equivalent to a single-semester
	<ul> <li>course unit:</li> <li>MABS 68 Readings in Buddhist Sanskrit Texts I: Grammatical Foundation (30 lecture hours);</li> <li>MABS 68 Readings in Buddhist Sanskrit Texts II: Readings of Selected Buddhist Sanskrit Texts (30 lecture hours).</li> </ul>
	Unless specially exempted, the intending student for MABS 68 Il must
	have acquired a pass in MABS 68 I as the prerequisite.
Aim	To familiarize students with Sanskrit texts and systematically provide them with an elementary grammatical foundation for reading the primary Sanskrit texts.
Content	The design of this course is guided by the reasonable assumption that the most interesting and rewarding way to learn Classical Sanskrit as a beginner is to actually read some simple Sanskrit texts that interest him/ her, under the guidance of a teacher. Classical Buddhist Sanskrit texts have their own styles, idiomatic expressions and technical terminologies with which the student must first be familiar. As the course proceeds, the student is being gradually and systematically introduced to both Buddhist textual materials and elementary grammar on the other.  For pedagogical reasons, all vocabularies, examples, and passages for the exercises in each lesson (except, understandably, the first one or two) are selected from the <i>Prajñāpāramitā</i> texts, particularly the <i>Aṣṭasāhasrikā</i> , to ensure linguistic and contextual homogeneity as much as possible. The selection is made on the basis of (i) simplicity in terms of grammatical structure and doctrinal meaning, and (ii) the existence of corresponding Chinese versions (particularly those translated by Xuan Zang and Kumārajiva). Occasionally, however, the need arises to select a few sentences from other Buddhist sources (such as the <i>Abhidharmakośabhāsya</i> ). Hybrid Sanskrit passages will be excluded. It can be an advantage if the student already has some familiarity with elementary Sanskrit grammar. However, neither familiarity with Buddhist scriptures and Classical Chinese nor knowledge of Sanskrit is an absolute prerequisite of this course.
Duration	60 hours
Method of	Lectures and class discussion
Teaching	
Method of	■ Mid-term Test
Evaluation	<ul><li>Final written examinations</li><li>In-class participation</li></ul>

## Expected Learning Outcomes

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

- i. demonstrate adequate proficiency in the Sanskrit grammar for the purpose of textual analysis;
- ii. read and understand Classical Buddhist Sanskrit texts with the help, where necessary, of a Sanskrit dictionary;
- iii. Properly comprehend the meaning of fundamental Sanskrit Buddhist terminologies and idiomatical expressions especially those in the *Prañāpāramitā* texts;
- iv. begin postgraduate research studies involving textual analysis of Buddhist Sanskrit sources.

## Recommended References

Bucknell R. S. (1994). Sanskrit Manual, New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.

Conze, Edward. (1990). Vajracchedikā-prajñāpāramitā: Edited and translated with Introduction and Glossary, Rome: M.E.O.

\_\_\_\_\_\_, (1990). The Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Lines and its Verse Summary, South Asia Books.

\_\_\_\_\_, (1979). *The Larger Sūtra on Perfect Wisdom*, New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.

Dhammajoti K.L. (2015) (3rd edn). *Reading Buddhist Sanskrit Texts: An Elementary Grammatical Guide*, Hong Kong: The Buddha Dharma Center.

Edgerton, Franklin. (2004). *Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit Grammar and Dictionary I & II*, New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.

Monier Williams. (1979). *A Sanskrit English Dictionary*, New Delhi: Bharatiya G.N.

Takayasu, Kimura. (Eds.). (2007-2009). Pañcavimśatisāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā 1-VI.

Vaidya, P.L. (Eds.). (1960). *Aṣṭasāhasikā Prajñāpāramitā, Darbhanga*: Mithila Institute of Sanskrit Learning.