

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>MABS 06</b>
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Origins of Mahayana and the Earliest Mahayana Sutras</b>
<b>Aim</b>	Studying the origins and development of Mahayana elements embedded in Nikāya Āgama Texts through those of the pre-Mahayana schools to the distinctly Mahayana doctrines in the earliest Mahāyana Sūtras.
<b>Content</b>	<p>Pre-Mahayana elements found in Nikāya and Āgama texts, pre-Mahayana schools (particularly the Mahāsāṅghika and the Vibhāṅgyavāda), causes that led to the emergence of Mahāyana taking into account the factors such as socio-economic conditions and doctrinal influences from outside Buddhism, earliest Mahāyāna Sūtras based on materials from both Sanskrit and Chinese Sources (especially translations in the 2nd and 3rd centuries), main doctrinal features of these texts (to facilitate the understanding of the background of pro-Mahāyana doctrines), relevant sections of texts such as the Kathāvatthu (with its commentary), the <i>Samayabhedopacaraṇacakra</i>, and the <i>Abhidharmamahāvibhāṣā-sāstra</i>.</p> <p>Students are not required to be conversant in Sanskrit and Chinese languages although some acquaintance with important doctrinal terms will be an advantage.</p>
<b>Duration</b>	30 hours
<b>Method of Teaching</b>	Lectures, discussions and assignments
<b>Method of Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Two assignments</li> <li>■ In-class participation</li> <li>■ Final year examination</li> </ul>
<b>Expected Learning Outcomes</b>	The student will be able to explain the causes that led to the emergence of Mahāyana in relation to Nikāya and Āgama texts and Pre-Mahāyāna schools and Mahayana concepts in relation to Early Mahāyāna Sūtras.
<b>Recommended References</b>	<p>Conze, E. (1998). <i>The Prajñāpāramitā Literature</i>, S. Gravenhage, Tokyo: The Reiyakar.</p> <p>_____, E. (1958). <i>Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā</i>, Bibliotheca Indica.</p> <p>Dayal, Har, (1997). <i>The Bodhisattva Doctrine in Buddhist Sanskrit Literature</i>, New Delhi: Sri Satguru Publications.</p> <p>Dutt, N. (1930). <i>Aspects of Mahayana Buddhism and its Relation to Hinayana</i>, London: Luzac Co.</p> <p>Kimura, R. (1978). <i>A Historical Study of the Terms Hinayana and Mahayana and the Origin of Mahayana Buddhism</i>, Patna: Indological Corporation.</p> <p>Nakamura, H. (1957). Historical Studies on the Coming into Existence of Mahayana Sutras, <i>Bulletin of the Okuvayama</i>, Oriental Research Institute, No. 2.</p> <p>Soothill, W. E. (1925). <i>The Lotus of the Wonderful Law or the Lotus Gospel</i>, London.</p> <p>Warder, A. K. (1980). <i>Indian Buddhism</i>, New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.</p>