

IBC MALAYSIA

'A' Level Diploma in Buddhist Studies

Module EBD:	Early Buddhist Doctrines
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Commencement:	3 September 2017
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1. Module Description

This module will introduce the students to the basic doctrines of Early Buddhism based on the Pali Suttas. The Buddhist view of existence will be examined on the basis of the Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Noble Path, Three Marks of Existence, Five Aggregates, Law of Karma and Dependent Origination. An introduction to the Buddhist theory of mind and its relation to Buddhist Ethics and practice of the Buddhist moral life with Nibbana as the ultimate goal of the spiritual life will be presented.

2. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students are able to

1. Understand the fundamental teachings of the Buddha as taught in the Pali Suttas.
2. Examine the basic doctrines and understand their significance to the Buddhist way of life
3. Apply Buddhist teachings in daily life which conduce to well-being and happiness.

3. Module Organization

This module will be taught by way of lectures, reading assignments, class discussion, PowerPoint presentations. The module will be delivered in 45 hours of lectures over a period of 10 weeks. Students have to write an assignment of 1500 words and sit for a 3-hour written examination at the end of each module. Students will be assessed through their class performance, presentation, written assignment and examination.

4. Assessment

Class Participation	10%
Presentation	10%
Assignment	30%
Examination	50%

5. Module Plan

Week 1.	1.1 Introduction to Early Buddhism 1.2 The Noble Eightfold Path
Week 2.	2.1 The Four Noble Truths 2.2 Dhammacakkhappavattana Sutta
Week 3.	3.1 Law of Interdependent Origination 3.2 Three Characteristics of Existence
Week 4.	4.1 Five Aggregates 4.2 Anattalakkhana Sutta
Week 5.	5.1 Law of Causation 5.2 Rebirth and Planes of Existence
Week 6.	6.1 Buddhist Ethics 6.2 Psychology of Moral Behaviour
Week 7.	7.1 Buddhist Theory of Mind 7.2 Purification and Liberation of Mind
Week 8.	8.1 Nibbana – Transcending Duality 8.2 Review
Week 9.	Students' Presentation
Week 10.	Examination

6. Module Requirements

Students are expected to acquire an in-depth knowledge of the topics taught. Class participation by way of Q&A and discussion will be encouraged. A suitable amount of time will be allocated at the end of the course for review and preparation for examination. To be eligible to sit for the examination, the students must attend a minimum of 80% of the scheduled classes, complete a written assignment of 1500 words and deliver a class presentation.

7. Research Topics on Early Buddhist Doctrines

As per Module Plan

8. Recommended Reading List

- Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *The Noble Eightfold Path: Way to the End of Suffering*. Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 2007.
- Gethin, R.M.L. *The Buddhist Path to Awakening (Classics in Religious Studies)*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2001.
- Harvey, Peter. *An Introduction to Buddhist Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Kalupahana, David J. *Karma and Rebirth: Foundations of the Buddha's Moral Philosophy*. Dehiwala: Buddhist Cultural Centre, 2009.

Ñānamoli and Bodhi, Bhikkhu. Trans. *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Majjhima Nikāya*. 4th Ed. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2009.

Nyanatiloka Mahathera. *The Significance of Dependent Origination in Theravada Buddhism*. Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1982.

Rahula, W. *What the Buddha Taught*. London: the Gordon Fraser Gallery Ltd, 1978.

Walshe, Maurice. *The Long Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Digha Nikaya*. London: Wisdom Publications, 1995.