

IBC MALAYSIA

'A' Level Diploma in Buddhist Studies

Module HBI:	History of Buddhism in India
Instructor:	Ms Chiew Suan Bee, MA in Buddhist Studies
Commencement:	23 April 2018
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1. Module Description

This module provides an understanding of the historical background of the emergence of Buddhism in India. From a historical perspective, the course is designed to provide students with a general survey of Indian Buddhism starting with the Sramana movement to the expansion of Buddha's ministry during his lifetime and its decline from India.

The main theme of the course includes: royal patronage in ancient India, the Bhikkhu and Bhikkuni Orders; the Buddhist Councils; popularization of Buddhism; the emergence and development of the major Buddhist sects; expansion of Buddhism during the reign of King Asoka and his contributions; spread of Buddhism outside India and its decline to the emergence of Mahayana.

2. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students are able to

1. understand the historical background during the emergence of Buddhism
2. account for the establishment of the Bhikkhu and Bhikkuni Orders
3. study the reasons that led to the First three Councils and the process of compilation of the Canon
4. examine the emergence of the Buddhist sects and the contributions of King Asoka

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. Origins of Buddhism and the Indian background: The Indian religious tradition (Sramana and Brahmana tradition)
- Week 2. Expansion of Buddha's ministry during his lifetime
- Week 3. Royal Patronage of Buddhism in ancient India
- Week 4. The Bhikkhu and Bhikkhuni Order
- Week 5. 5.1 First Buddhist Council –
The first attempt to collectively sanction the Buddha's teachings
5.2 The Second Buddhist Council – the confrontation between the orthodox and the progressive communities; the doctrinal conflict with Mahadeva's Five Points.
- Week 6. 6.1 The First Schism; Sthaviravada and Mahasanghika; and subsequent development of the major Buddhist Sects
6.2 The Third Buddhist Council – King Asoka and his contributions to the Buddhist world outside India
- Week 7. The Emergence of Mahayana
- Week 8. The Decline of Buddhism from India & Conclusions
- Week 9. Students' Presentation & Review
- Week 10. Examination

6. 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 History of Buddhism in India

As per Module Plan

8. Recommended Reading List

Conze, Edward. *A Short History of Buddhism*. London: Unwin, 1980.

Della Santina, Peter. *The Tree of Enlightenment : An Introduction to the Major Traditions of Buddhism*. Taiwan: Chico Dharma Study Foundation, 1997.

- Dutt, Nalinaksha. *Buddhist Sects in India*. Delhi: Montilal, Reprint, 1998.
- Harvey, P. *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, History and Practices*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1990.
- Hasra, K.L. *The Rise and Decline of Buddhism in India*. Delhi: Munshiran Manoharlal, 1995.
- Hazra, K. L. *Constitution of the Buddhist Sangha*. Delhi: B.R. Pub. Co., 1988.
- Hirakawa, Akira. tr. & ed. by Paul Groner. *A History of Indian Buddhism: from Sakyamuni to Early Mahayana*. University of Hawaii Press, 1990.
- Lamotte, Etienne. *History of Indian Buddhism: From Sakyamuni to Early Mahayana*. New Delhi: Motilal Barnarsidass. 1993.
- Nanamoli. *The Life of the Buddha According to the Pali Canon*. Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1972.
- Thapar, Romila. *Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas*. India: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Walpola, Rahula. *What the Buddha Taught*. London: Gordon Fraser, 1967.