

MANGALA VIHARA (BUDDHIST TEMPLE)

(Founded 1st May 1960)

Founder : Late Ven. M.M. Mahaweera Maha Nayaka Thera

Resident Monk : Ven Dr I Indasara Thero

5th October 2008

Dear Student

Diploma in Buddhism – course starts on Sunday, 5th October 2008.

Welcome to the Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore.

Thank you for your interest and registration for the course in Diploma in Buddhism. The course starts on Sunday, 5th October 2008 with classes on every Sunday, 2.00 p.m. to 5.15 pm **and** Tuesday, 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Examinations will be during one weekend of September 2009.

The syllabus for the Diploma in Buddhism:

Early Buddhism – Basic Doctrines

Buddhist doctrines as presented in the discourses of the Sutta Pitaka, with greater emphasis on the following topics: the Four Noble Truths, the Three signs of existence (Tilakkhana), the analysis of empirical existence (kandhayatanadhatu), the doctrines of dependent origination, doctrines of Kamma, Buddhist ethics, Nirvana and the path leading to its realization. A study of the life of the Buddha emphasizing his magnanimous qualities is also expected.

Recommended Reading:

1. What the Buddha Taught by Ven Walpola Rahula *
2. Buddha and His teaching by Narada Maha Thera *
3. Life of the Buddha by E.J. Thomas
4. Essentials of Buddhism by Ven. P Gñānarama *

Buddhist Social Dimensions

A study of the Buddhist teachings bearing on the following social concepts: human society, its origin and evolution, individual and social relations; oneness of mankind and the supremacy of man; state and government; economy and the use of economic resources; animate and inanimate environment; law; justice and punishment. Buddhist ethics and the Buddhist social norms as reflected in the organization of the Buddhist monastic order should also form an integral part of this study.

Recommended Reading:

1. Buddhist Ethics by K.N. Jayatillaka, Wheel Publications*
2. Buddhism and Society by O.H. de A Wijesekara
3. Buddhist Policy by Oliver Abeyanayaka
4. An Approach to Buddhist Social Philosophy by Ven. P. Gñānarama*
5. Small is Beautiful by E.F. Schumacher
6. Small is Still Beautiful by Joseph Pearce

Geographical Expansion of Theravada Buddhism

A study of the inception and spread of Theravada Buddhism in the countries of South East Asia, with the main emphasis on the following aspects: the geographical expansion of Buddhism in the pre-Asokan period; its emergence as a world religion during the reign of Emperor Asoka; the spread of Theravada Buddhism in South India and in the regions of South East Asia (e.g. Myanmar, Thailand); religious inter-courses between Theravada countries; contemporary Theravada Buddhism.

Recommended Reading:

1. History of Theravada Buddhism in South East Asia by K.L. Hazra *
2. Thai Buddhism by Kenneth E. Wells
3. A short history of Buddhism in Myanmar by Roger Bischoff, Wheel Publications*
4. Buddhism in Thailand by Karuna Kulalasaya, Wheel Publication*
5. Buddhism in Sri Lanka by H. R. Perera, Wheel Publication*
6. History of Buddhism in Ceylon by Ven. Walpola Rahula
7. Buddhist India by Rhys Davids

Early History of Buddhism up to the 3rd Century BC

A general knowledge of the history of Buddhism from the enlightenment of the Buddha up to the Buddhist missionary activities launched in the reign of Emperor Asoka is expected here. In this study, special attention should be paid to the following topics: Expansion of Buddha's ministry during his lifetime; establishment of the Bhikkhu and Bhikkuni orders; origin and development of Buddhist monasteries; causes that led to the first three Buddhist Councils and their contribution to Buddhism and its literature; emergence of Buddhist schools and their impact on the development of Buddhist thought; relationship between Buddhism and the state up to the period of Emperor Asoka; spread of Buddhism beyond Indian frontiers.

Recommended Reading:

1. History of Buddhism in Ceylon by Ven. Walpola Rahula
2. Buddhist India by Rhys Davids
3. Early History of the spread of Buddhism and the Buddhist schools by N. Dutt
4. History of Buddhist Thought by E.J. Thomas
5. Indian Buddhism by A.K. Warder

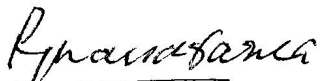
Pali - Prescribed texts and books:

1. Dhammapada – Citta Vagga and Puppha Vagga *
2. Pali Buddhist Texts explained to the Beginner by Rune E.A. Johansson*
3. Palipathavali – 1st ten stories *
4. Elementary Pali Grammar

Recommended Text:

1. The New Pali Course Part 1 by Ven A.P. Buddhadatta *
2. Concise Pali – English Dictionary by Ven.A.P. Buddhadatta *

With Metta,


Ven. Dr. P. Gñānarama
Principal

* available in Mangala Vihara at the Mangala Hall

P.S. If you have any queries concerning the course, please contact the Chairman, Management Committee of Mangala Vihara (Buddhist Temple), Mr Lim Ah Swan or Mrs Gina Lim at 91806505 or send an email to highlandcottage@hotmail.com.

Please keep this letter as it contains the syllabus for the whole period.