Syllabus for Postgraduate Diploma in Socially Engaged Buddhism
(A course applicable to students of the University Department)
From the Academic Year 2013–2014
Approved by the Ad-hoc Board of Studies in Pali Literature and Culture
Savitribai Phule Pune University
Savitribai Phule Pune University
Postgraduate Diploma in Socially Engaged Buddhism

General Instructions about the Course, the Pattern of Examination and the Syllabus

I. General Instructions

I.1 General Structure: Postgraduate Diploma in Socially Engaged Buddhism is a two-semester course of sixteen credits offered by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University. The course is to be completed within one year. It contains four courses of four credits each. All the courses are also available as elective courses for students doing any Master degree course in the University.

Students will be introduced to the socially engaged Buddhist ideas, revival of Buddhism in India, and engaged Buddhist movements across the world through lectures, group discussions, practice sessions, and project work. Teaching of semesters, I and II will be sequential. Syllabus of each course will be discussed in sixty clock hours (approximately) during each semester. Students are expected to design and carry out a small research project on any chosen theme concerning socially engaged aspects of Buddhism or one month’s internship as a part of this course.

Students’ understanding will be assessed on the basis of their performance on things, such as assignments, debate on conceptual issues, group discussion, essay writing, seminar presentation, tutorial writing, written and oral examination, project, etc.

Students are expected to maintain at least 75% attendance and to ensure their active participation in the class.

I.2 Introduction: Buddhism was born in India. Buddha was the first universal teacher of humanity whose Dhamma spread all over the world. He was also the first and foremost social and religious critic, reformer, and free thinker who advocated rationality and humanity. The Buddha told his followers to move around the world and spread the message of Dhamma for happiness and wellbeing of the people. As a result, Buddhism was spread in many countries in Asia. Though Buddhism withered away from India after 10th century, in 1956 it was revived on large scale under the leadership of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. In 20th century Buddhism was also appreciated in other countries due to its rational appeal and the message of love and compassion. Buddhist principles and practices were applied for seeking solution of many social and political issues. Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Zen master used Buddhist principles to find a middle way between Capitalism and Communism. He coined the expression “Engaged Buddhism” and explained its implications. It can be said that socially engaged aspects which were already present in Buddhism are highlighted and extended by Buddhist thinkers and leaders in recent times to make Buddhism more relevant and fruitful. The Postgraduate Diploma in Socially Engaged
Buddhism aims at introducing socially engaged character and role of Buddhism in its different dimensions.

I.3 Objectives: The objectives of the Postgraduate Diploma in Socially Engaged Buddhism are:
- To learn and understand socially relevant teachings of the Buddha through selected readings from Buddhist texts
- To learn theoretical foundation, history, and models of socially engaged Buddhism
- To help students apply Buddhist principles to solve social problems

I.4 Eligibility: Graduation in any faculty from any recognized university

I.5 Duration: The duration of the Postgraduate Diploma in Socially Engaged Buddhism will be one academic year consisting of two semesters of fifteen weeks each.

I.6 Course Fee: The Admission Fee for the course, Annual Tuition Fee, Examination Fee, Record Fee, Statement of Marks, and other essential fees will be as per the rules and regulations of the Savitribai Phule Pune University.

I.7 Teaching:
- Medium of instruction - English or Marathi
- Lectures - Four lectures and one tutorial/practical per course per week, i.e., ten hours per week for fifteen weeks in a semester
- Lectures of courses I.1 and I.2, and their evaluation will be done in the first semester.
- Lectures of courses II.1 to II.2, and their evaluation will be done in the second semester.
- Lectures of course III.1 and the project work/internship and their evaluation will be done in the third semester.
- By the end of the first semester students will decide the topic of their project.
- Students will have to carry out individual/group project and submit a report based on it by the end of semester II.

II. Pattern of Examination

II.1 Assessment and Evaluation:
- A Postgraduate Diploma student will be assessed for his/her performance at a written test of 400 marks, i.e., four courses of 100 marks each
- For each semester there will be an external examination of 50 marks and an internal examination of 50 marks per course.
- The external examination will be held at the end of each semester.
- The internal assessment will be carried out throughout the semester.
• The nature of the internal assessment will be varied. It will include at least three components out of written test, essay writing, group discussion, seminar presentation, tutorial writing, book review, field work, research project, meditation retreat, debate on conceptual issues, attendance in weekly practice session, and oral exam.

• In addition to this, a project report is to be submitted at the end of the second semester.

II.2 Passing:

• To pass the Postgraduate Diploma in Socially Engaged Buddhism examination a candidate must obtain 40% of the total marks in each of the external and internal examination (i.e., separate passing: 20 in external and 20 in internal examination)

• Or, aggregate 40% marks with at least 30% marks in either external or internal examination (i.e., 15 marks out of 50)

• Those of the successful candidates will be given appropriate grades in accordance with the grading pattern accepted by the university.

II.3 Question Pattern:

Semester I

Course I.1: Introduction to Buddhism and Its Socially Engaged Aspects and Course I.2: Resurgence of Buddhism in India (100 marks each)

Semester II

Course II.1: Buddhism in The Modern World and Course II.2: Interdisciplinary Role of Buddhism (100 marks each)

• External written examination (50 marks): Long answer (30 marks), short answer (12 marks), and short note (8 marks)

• Internal examination (50 marks): Any three components out written test, essay writing, group discussion, seminar presentation, tutorial writing, book review, field work, research project, meditation retreat, debate on conceptual issues, attendance in weekly practice session, and oral exam, etc.

III. Syllabus

III.1 Outline:

Semester I

Course I.1: Introduction to Buddhism and Its Socially Engaged Aspects

Course I.2: Resurgence of Buddhism in India

Semester II
Course II.1: Buddhism in The Modern World
Course II.2: Interdisciplinary Role of Buddhism

III.2 Detailed Syllabus:

Semester I

Course I.1: Introduction to Buddhism and Its Socially Engaged Aspects
Credit 1: Buddha’s life and fundamental teachings; socially engaged aspects of Buddhism (from Theravāda and Mahāyāna sources): Rational approach; inefficacy of rites and rituals in spiritual life; Bodhisattva ideal
Credit 2: Socially engaged aspects of Buddhism (from Theravāda and Mahāyāna sources): Ideal social order - Refutation of caste and gender inequality, interpersonal relationship based on equality, householder’s discipline and monastic order
Credit 3: Socially engaged aspects of Buddhism (from Theravāda and Mahāyāna sources): Ideal political order - Concept of a Dharmacakra-prajñā and republican polity; ideal economic life - No glorification of poverty, economic life based on the principle of sharing
Credit 4: Contemporary issues before Buddhism: Compatibility with science; karma and rebirth; capitalism and communism; caste and gender inequalities; environmental crisis; post-modernism; conflict resolution and world peace

Text books:

Reference books:

E-Sources:
1. A Guide to the Dalai Lama's Teachings on Dependent Arising and the Wheel of Life – Jeffrey Hopkins:
   https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/30/1.html

2. The Buddha and His Dhamma – B. R. Ambedkar:
   http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00ambedkar/ambedkar_buddha/

3. Bodhisattvas of Compassion - Taigen Dan Leighton:
   https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/31/1.html

4. DharmaNet - Learning Resource Centre:
   https://dharmanet.org/

5. The Buddha and His Teachings – Narada:

6. Pali Sutta in translation:
   https://suttacentral.net/

7. Pali Tipiṭaka in translation:
   https://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/vin/index.html

8. Vision and Transformation – Sangharakshita:
   https://www.sangharakshita.org/_books/vision-transformation.pdf

9. A Guide to the Buddhist Path – Sangharakshita:

10. The Buddha's Teaching as It Is - Bhikkhu Bodhi:
    https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/23/1.html

    https://suttacentral.net/

**Course I.2: Resurgence of Buddhism in India**

Credit 1: Rediscovery of Buddhism – Archaeological finds, introduction of Buddhist literature and personal experiences

Credit 2: Resurgence of Buddhism in modern India – Non Ambedkarite Buddhist movements, individual and institutional contributions
Credit 3: Dr. Ambedkar - His life and mission, his social philosophy and constitutional vision; Dr. Ambedkar’s writings and speeches on Buddhism
Credit 4: Dr. Ambedkar’s “The Buddha and His Dhamma”

**Text books:**

**Reference books:**

**E-Sources:**

1. The Buddha and His Dhamma - B. R. Ambedkar:  

2. The Social Dimensions of Early Buddhism - Uma Chakravarti:  
   [https://ru.b-ok2.org/book/2150219/f0be1a](https://ru.b-ok2.org/book/2150219/f0be1a)
3. Cultivating Compassion Developing an Awareness of the Capacity for Love inside Us and in Learning to Project That Love into the World around Us - Jeffrey Hopkins: https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/33/1.html

4. Destructive Emotions: Transforming our afflictive emotions: https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/39/1.html


6. ePustakalay: Free Library: https://epustakalay.com/

7. Generosity: One of the 10 Perfections - the Paramis: https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/29/paramis1.htm


13. Asoka: The Buddhist Emperor of India - Vincent Smith: https://ia802306.us.archive.org/19/items/asokabuddhistemp00smitiala/asokabuddhistemp00smitiala.pdf


15. Velivada: Educate, Agitate, Organize: https://velivada.com/


17. A Dalit-Bahujan Media - Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar:
http://www.ambedkar.org/

Semester II

Course II.1: Buddhism in The Modern World
Credit 1: Post-Ambedkar Buddhist Movement in India: Activities of Buddhist Society of India, Trailokya Baudha Mahāsaṅgha Sahāyaka Gaṇa, The Tibetan Buddhist Movements, S. N. Goenka’s Vipassana Movement, etc.
Credit 2: Socially Engaged Buddhism in Countries with Theravada Background: Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, etc.
Credit 3: Socially Engaged Buddhism in Countries with Mahayana Background: China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, etc.
Credit 4: Socially Engaged Buddhism in other parts of the World: Europe, America and Africa

Text books:

Reference books:


**E-Sources:**

1. Bhikkhu Buddhadasa:  
   [https://www.suanmokkh.org/](https://www.suanmokkh.org/)

2. Dalai Lama:  
   [https://www.dalailama.com/](https://www.dalailama.com/)

3. Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne:  
   [https://www.sarvodaya.org/](https://www.sarvodaya.org/)

4. Ethics of Altruism: A Guide to the Dalai Lama's Teachings on Compassionate Living:  
   [https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/25/ethics0.htm](https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/25/ethics0.htm)

5. Humanistic Buddhism: Fo Guang Shan Monastery:  


7. Sangharakshita:  

8. The Wheel of Engaged Buddhism: A New Map of the Path - Kenneth Kraft:  
   [https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/32/wheel0.htm](https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/32/wheel0.htm)
9. Thich Nhat Hanh: 
   https://plumvillage.org/

10. Triratna Buddhist Community: 
    https://thebuddhistcentre.com/text/what-triratna-buddhist-community

11. Vipassana Research Institute: 
    https://www.vridhamma.org/

12. Writings and Speeches of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in English and Hindi: 
    http://drambedkarwritings.gov.in/content/writings-and-speeches.php

13. Z-Library: Thich Nhat Hanh: 
    https://b-ok.cc/s/Thich%20nhat%20hanh

Course II.2: Interdisciplinary Role of Buddhism

Credit 1: Role of Buddhism with reference to social issues: caste, class and gender
Credit 2: Buddhist engagements with state, politics and public administration, economics and management science
Credit 3: Buddhist engagements with science, psychology and ecology
Credit 4: Buddhist engagements with culture: language, media and arts

Text book:


Reference books:


**E-Sources:**

1. A Manual for Buddhism and Deep Ecology - D. H. Henning:  

2. The Beginnings of Buddhist Art - A. Foucher:  

3. Green Dharma: Buddhism and Ecology:  
   https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/37/ecology0.htm

4. Buddhism, Power and Political Order - Ian Harris:  


6. The Buddha's Philosophy of Language - David J. Kalupahana:  

7. Buddhist Women Across Cultures: Realizations - Karma Lekshe Tsomo:  

8. Toward Sustainable Science: A Buddhist Look at Trend in Scientific Development - P. A. Payutto:
9. Buddhist Economics - P. A. Payutto:

10. Reconnecting to Life - Joanna Macy:
    https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/34/ ecologyjm0.htm

11. Rest Your Weary Mind: Letting Go of the Hindrances - Joseph Goldstein:
    https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/24/Hindrances1.htm

12. The Metta Sutta - Andrew Olendzki:
    https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/18/metasutta1.htm

13. The Wheel of Engaged Buddhism: A New Map of the Path - Kenneth Kraft:
    https://dharmanet.org/coursesM/32/wheel0.htm