KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	PLAN 101 OL
Course Title	Pali I
Semester, Year	Fall, 2027
Course Delivery Mode	Online synchronous
Course Components	2 90-minute lectures per week
Schedule: class day & time	Please consult F27 course schedule
Required Text(s)	All necessary materials, including audio/video lessons, grammar documents, homework assignments, readings, and vocabulary lists, will be provided electronically by the instructor.
Optional Readings	Steven Collins, *A Pali Grammar for Students* W. Geiger, *A Pāli Grammar* A. K Warder, *Introduction to Pali*
Course Prerequisite	none

Course Description

This Beginning Pali course is for those who wish to read Buddhist scriptures preserved in Pali language. Pali is one of the major source languages for studying the earliest Buddhist texts—namely, the Pali Canon—as well as the large corpus of literature belonging to the Theravāda tradition.

The course is designed for students with no prior knowledge of the language. It aims to equip participants to read Pali canonical and commentarial texts with the aid of a dictionary and essential Pali grammar materials. All materials and readings for the course will use the Latin alphabet, so there is no need to learn any Asian script for this course.

The primary focus will be on translating Pali sentences, from basic to advanced, and on introducing foundational grammar. This includes gaining familiarity with Pali sentence structure; the declension of nouns across different genders; the classification of verbs and their conjugations; and the different styles of Pali expression.

The core textbook for this class will be Ven. A. P. Buddhadatta's *The New Pali Course*, which is available for download online. This book provides a step-by-step approach to learning and practicing translation between Pali and English. Students will concurrently learn essential grammatical concepts such as *sandhi* and *samāsa*. After completing the first part of this textbook, we will begin reading selected stories from the *Rasavāhini*, a collection of tales

originated in India and Sri Lanka. In the final phase of the course, we will also read a few short Pali *sutta*s.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Read Pali texts with the aid of dictionaries.
- Understand common Pali expressions, core grammatical concepts such as *sandhi*, verb classes etc.
- Gain a general understanding of Pali literature and the methods for searching and referencing texts in both print and digital formats.

Course Requirements	
How do I succeed in the course?	Students will succeed in this course by preparing for all classes, participating in class, asking questions, and working diligently on all assignments and assessments. Additionally, a minimum attendance of 80% is required to pass the course.
Assessments	Weight
1. Homework	15%
2. Classwork	15%
3. Midterm Examination	20%
4. Final Examination	50%

Important Dates

Aug. 30	Fall semester classes begin
Sept. 14–16	End of Yarney—no TSTD classes (to be confirmed)
Oct. 4–8	Reading week—no classes
Oct. 10	Dashain Vijaya Dashami—no classes, offices closed
Oct. 31	Tihar Bhai Tika—no classes, offices closed
Nov. 19–29	Annual Fall Seminar—no classes (to be confirmed)
Dec. 10	Fall semester classes end
Dec. 13–17	Exam week

Class Schedule

TBD