

**Sub Committee for Philosophy**

**Curriculum Development for Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Name of Institute:** Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

**Course Name:** Buddhist Philosophy: The Indian Tradition

**Course Code:**

**(UG/PG):** UG, Elective

**Number of Credits:** 4 (60 Hrs)

**Level:** 2

**Course Code:** T6408

**Introduction**

This course will introduce students of any academic background the fundamentals of Buddhist thought and philosophy. Given the sheer breadth of Buddhist philosophy, this course will cover only the Indian traditions. The syllabus will thus include the origins of Buddhism and then move to Mahayana Buddhism, and Vajrayana (tantric) Buddhism. The philosophical context in which the Buddha taught will be introduced to the students, after which they will study basic philosophical and soteriological concerns as seen in the writings of Indian Buddhism. The course is a basic introduction to the subject and does not presuppose any prior subject knowledge on the part of the student.

**Learning Objective(s):**

1. **­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**To summarize the basic concepts of Buddhism as found in the Indian Tradition.
2. To review the fundamental philosophical concerns that lead to the rise and growth of Buddhist thought in India.
3. To discuss and review the various schools of Buddhist philosophy in India.
4. To identify and distinguish the differentiating characteristics of the various schools of Buddhist philosophy within the Indian Tradition.

**Pedagogy:**

1. The class sessions will be a mix of interactive lectures and discussions.
2. Regular readings will be provided to students and discussions and class leads will be held based on these.
3. Audio-visual aids are incorporated wherever applicable.
4. Reading and discussion of research papers / book chapters are incorporated within the class structure so as to reinforce and ensure that students are abreast with literature n the subject
5. Self-study and practice forms a part of the pedagogy of this course.

**Pre-requisites: NA**

**Course Outline**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Topic | Hours |
| 1. | **The Buddha, his Life and Philosophical Context**   * + Philosophical context of pre Buddhist India   + The Buddha and his Life   + Our knowledge of the Buddha himself | **10 hrs** |
| 2. | **Fundamental Teachings of Mainstream Buddhism**   * + The Four Noble Truths   + Anantman (No-Self)   + Dependent Origination (Paticcasamutpada)   + Karma   + Buddhist Meditation   + Abhidhamma | **20** |
| 3. | **Schools of Mahayana Buddhism**   * Origins and features of Mahayana Buddhism * Schools of Mahayana Buddhisms * Mahayana Philosophy * Buddha in the Mahayana Tradition | **20** |
| 4. | **Introduction to Buddhist Tantra**   * Features of Buddhist Tantra * Tantric practice in the Buddhist Tradition * Vajrayana and its Place in the Buddhist Tradition | **10** |

**Books Recommended**

Paul Williams with Anthony Tribe (2000). *Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition,* Routledge

Narada Thera, *The Buddha and his Dhamma.*

Richard Francis Gombrich (2009). What the Buddha Thought. Equinox Publications.

Richard Francis Gombrich (2011). How Buddhism Began. Routledge.

David Kalupahana(1992). *A History of Buddhist Philosophy: Continuities & Discontinuities.* University of Hawaii Press.

**Research Papers/Articles recommended for reading:**

Research papers and articles will be provided to students as deemed fit during the course.

**Suggested Evaluation Methods:**

As per SIU Rules on Pg no. 20 – 5.1 e) III.

**Parallel/Similar courses in the existing curriculum: (NA)**

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| S.No. | Name of the course | Institute where it was offered |
|  | NA |  |
|  | NA |  |
|  | NA |  |
|  | NA |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Member | Aditya Nain |  |  |  |  |
| Designation | Assistant Professor |  |  |  |  |
| Org. / Inst. | SSLA |  |  |  |  |
| Signature |  |  |  |  |  |

Name of the Expert: Aditya Nain

Signature:

Date