



Samrat Ashok Subharti School of Buddhist Studies

A Constituent College of

SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY

Subhartipuram, NH-58, Delhi Haridwar Meerut Bypass Road, Meerut - 250005

Website: www.subharti.org, E-mail: buddhiststudies@subharti.org, Ph: 0121-3055000



COURSE STRUCTRE FOR M.A. IN PĀḲI

[DETAILED SYLLABUS OF M.A. PROGRAMME – MAPL]

1. INTRODUCTION

The Master of Arts (M.A.) in PāḲi is a postgraduate programme designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the PāḲi language, literature, and its historical and philosophical significance. PāḲi, recognised by the Government of India as one of the classical languages of India, holds immense value as the primary language of Theravāda Buddhist texts. The course aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and aims to integrate a multidisciplinary approach to language, culture, and philosophy while fostering research and critical thinking.

2. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The programme aims to equip students with a strong foundation in PāḲi language and literature, enabling them to engage in scholarly research and interpretation of classical texts. It seeks to develop linguistic proficiency, textual analysis skills, and an understanding of the socio-cultural and philosophical dimensions of PāḲi literature. Through a structured curriculum, students will gain insight into the historical development of Buddhism, its doctrinal foundations, and its influence on South and Southeast Asian cultures. The programme also aims to promote interdisciplinary research by incorporating comparative studies of Buddhist literature, history, and philosophy.

3. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the programme, students will have acquired an in-depth knowledge of PāḲi grammar, syntax, and semantics, allowing them to read and translate classical PāḲi texts with accuracy. They will be able to analyze Buddhist doctrinal concepts and historical developments through textual sources. Additionally, students will develop research skills essential for academic and professional pursuits in Buddhist studies, linguistics, and historical research. The programme will also prepare graduates for careers in teaching, research, translation, and cultural preservation.



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4. KEY INFORMATION

Details	Information
Name of the Program	Master of Arts in Pāli [MAPL]
Minimum Qualification	A graduation degree in any subject/discipline.
Total Required Credits	74 Credits are required from mandatory and elective courses.

5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The M.A. in Pāli is a two-year program divided into four semesters, structured according to the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). Each semester consists of 4 papers of a total of 16 credits, with **Core** and **Elective** courses/papers. In the fourth semester, students undertake a dissertation worth 10 credits related to any relevant topic of Pāli.

6. DETAILED SYLLABUS

SEMESTER I

CORE COURSES

MAPL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PĀLI GRAMMAR AND LINGUISTIC STRUCTURE

Topics:

1. Nature and Significance of Pāli Language
2. Relationship between Pāli and Sanskrit
3. Phonetics and Phonology of Pāli
4. Morphology: Nouns, Pronouns, and Adjectives
5. Verb Conjugation and Tenses
6. Sentence Structure and Syntax
7. Sandhi and Samāsa in Pāli
8. Translation of Simple Sentences

MAPL 102: HISTORY OF PĀLI LITERATURE

1. Origin and Development of Pāli Literature
2. Canonical Pāli Literature: Vinaya, Sutta, and Abhidhamma Piṭaka



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3. Commentarial Tradition: Aṭṭhakathās and Ṭīkās
4. Chronicles and Historical Texts: Dīpavaṃsa, Mahāvāṃsa
5. Post-canonical Pāḷi Literature and Its Influence

MAPL 103: EARLY BUDDHIST DOCTRINES IN PĀḲI TEXTS

1. Fundamental Teachings of the Buddha
2. The Four Noble Truths
3. The Noble Eightfold Path
4. Theory of Dependent Origination (Paṭiccasamuppāda)
5. Concept of Nibbāna and Liberation
6. Buddhist Ethics and Social Philosophy

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ELECTIVE COURSES [MAPL 104]

(Students can choose one elective paper from the following three options.)

MAPL 104A: PĀḲI PROSODY AND POETICS

1. Introduction to Pāḷi Poetics and Prosody
2. Meters in Pāḷi Literature: Vatta, Siloka, Indavajirā
3. Literary Styles in Pāḷi Poetry
4. Analysis of Poetic Works in Dhammapada and Jātaka Tales
5. The Influence of Sanskrit and Prākṛit Poetics

MAPL 104B: PĀḲI MANUSCRIPTOLOGY AND PALEOGRAPHY

1. Study of Ancient Pāḷi Manuscripts
2. Brahmi and Sinhala Scripts in Pāḷi Texts
3. Conservation and Digital Preservation of Manuscripts
4. Interpretation of Ancient Palm-Leaf Texts
5. The Role of Epigraphy in Buddhist Studies



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MAPL 104C: PĀLI AND BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY

1. Introduction to Buddhist Psychology in Pāli Literature
2. Concepts of Mind (Citta), Consciousness (Viññāṇa), and Mental Formations (Saṅkhāra)
3. Psychological Analysis in Abhidhamma Piṭaka
4. Theories of Perception and Cognition in Buddhist Thought
5. Meditation and Mindfulness in Buddhist Psychology

SEMESTER II CORE COURSES

MAPL 201: INTERMEDIATE PĀLI GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION

1. Advanced Morphology: Case Endings and Their Functions
2. Usage of Indeclinables in Pāli
3. Sandhi Rules and Their Application
4. Compound Formation and Analysis
5. Active and Passive Constructions
6. Translation of Intermediate-Level Pāli Passages
7. Practical Exercises in Sentence Composition

MAPL 202: POST-CANONICAL PĀLI LITERATURE

1. Development of Post-Canonical Literature
2. Role of Milindapañha and Petakopadesa
3. The Influence of Commentarial Literature
4. Chronicles and Their Historical Significance
5. Evolution of Pāli Poetry and Jātaka Tales
6. Contributions of Burmese and Sri Lankan Pāli Literature

MAPL 203: SELECTED SUTTAS FROM MAJJHIMA AND SAṂYUTTA NIKĀYA

1. Introduction to Majjhima and Saṁyutta Nikāya: Structure and Themes



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2. Analysis of Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta (Majjhima Nikāya)
3. Study of Cūḷavedalla Sutta (Majjhima Nikāya) – Psychological Teachings
4. Selected Discourses from Saṃyutta Nikāya on the Five Aggregates
5. Dependent Origination in Nidāna Saṃyutta
6. Translation and Exegesis with Commentary (Aṭṭhakathā)

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ELECTIVE COURSES [MAPL 204]

(Students can choose one elective paper from the following three options.)

MAPL 204A: PĀLI LINGUISTICS AND SEMANTICS

1. Evolution of Pāli as a Middle Indo-Aryan Language
2. Phonetic and Morphological Changes from Sanskrit to Pāli
3. Semantic Development in Pāli Literature
4. Comparative Study of Pāli and Other Prakrits
5. The Role of Meaning and Context in Translation

MAPL 204B: PĀLI METAPHYSICS AND ABHIDHAMMA

1. Metaphysical Foundations in Early Buddhism
2. The Concept of Ultimate Reality in Abhidhamma
3. Theory of Elements (Dhātus) and Aggregates (Khandhas)
4. Analysis of Consciousness and Mental States
5. Ethics and Liberation in Abhidhamma Thought

MAPL 204C: PĀLI LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

1. Translation Theories in Buddhist Studies
2. Major Translations and Their Impact
3. Comparative Study of Different Translations
4. Challenges in Translating Pāli Texts into Modern Languages
5. Critical Analysis of Selected Translations



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SEMESTER III

CORE COURSES

MAPL 301: ADVANCED PĀḲI GRAMMAR AND TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

1. Advanced Syntax and Sentence Construction
2. Declensions and Conjugations in Classical Texts
3. Compound Formation (Samāsa) in PāḲi
4. Interpretation of Complex PāḲi Passages
5. Translation of Classical PāḲi Texts into English
6. Comparison of PāḲi and Other Middle Indo-Aryan Languages
7. Practical Exercises in Parsing and Analyzing Texts

MAPL 302: BUDDHIST ETHICS AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

1. Ethical Foundations in Buddhist Teachings
2. The Five Precepts and Their Social Relevance
3. The Role of the Saṅgha in Society
4. Buddhist Approaches to Environmental Ethics
5. Economic and Political Thought in Buddhist Tradition
6. Engaged Buddhism and Modern Social Movements
7. Case Studies of Buddhist Social Welfare Programs

MAPL 303: GĀTHĀS AND STORIES FROM DHAMMAPADA AND JĀTAKA

1. Literary Structure of Dhammapada: Themes and Classifications
2. Ethical and Philosophical Teachings in Selected Gāthās
3. Analysis of Jātaka Tales: Narrative Structure and Moral Framework
4. Commentary Tradition: Dhammapadaṭṭhakathā and Jātakatṭhakathā
5. Select Case Studies of Popular Jātakas (e.g., Vessantara, Mahāsīlava)
6. Translation and Interpretation Exercises with Focus on Gāthā Meaning

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ELECTIVE COURSES [MAPL 304]

(Students can choose one elective paper from the following three options.)

MAPL 304A: PĀLI COMMENTARIAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS

1. Introduction to Pāli Commentaries (Aṭṭhakathā)
2. Role of Commentary Tradition in Buddhist Scholarship
3. The Sub-Commentaries (Tīkā) and Their Importance
4. Analysis of Selected Passages from Aṭṭhakathā Texts
5. The Influence of Commentarial Literature on Later Buddhist Thought

MAPL 304B: PĀLI INSCRIPTIONS AND HISTORICAL SOURCES

1. Study of Pāli Inscriptions in India and Sri Lanka
2. Major Epigraphic Records: Aśoka's Edicts and Later Inscriptions
3. Historical Context of Pāli Inscriptions
4. Contribution of Epigraphy to Buddhist Studies
5. Interpretation of Selected Pāli Inscriptions

MAPL 304C: PĀLI AND BUDDHIST MEDITATION TEXTS

1. Meditation Practices in Early Buddhist Texts
2. Study of Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta and Other Meditation Discourses
3. Theories of Mindfulness and Concentration
4. Psychological Analysis in Meditation Texts
5. The Impact of Meditation on Buddhist Thought and Practice

SEMESTER IV

CORE COURSES

MAPL 401: PĀLI PHILOLOGY AND TEXTUAL STUDIES

1. Philological Approaches to Pāli Studies
2. Comparative Study of Pāli with Sanskrit and Prākṛits
3. Textual Criticism and Manuscript Studies



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4. Interpretation of Key Texts in Their Historical Context
5. Translation and Commentary Writing

MAPL 402: BUDDHIST RITUALS AND PERFORMANCE TRADITIONS

1. Ritual Practices in Early Buddhism
2. Vinaya Rules and Monastic Rituals
3. Buddhist Festivals and Their Significance
4. Chanting, Recitation, and Performance of Suttas
5. Theatrical Representations in Buddhist Traditions

MAPL 403: TEXTUAL STUDY OF SELECTED CHAPTERS FROM VISUDDHIMAGGA AND NETTIPAKARAṆA

1. Overview of Visuddhimagga by Buddhaghosa: Structure and Importance
2. Chapters on Sīla and Samādhi with Commentary
3. Interpretive Methods in Nettippakaraṇa (Guide to Interpretation)
4. Application of Textual Interpretation in Theravāda Doctrine
5. Comparative Study with Canonical References (e.g., Sutta & Abhidhamma)
6. Translation and Analytical Notes Using Sub-Commentaries (Ṭīkā)



ELECTIVE COURSES [MAPL 404]

(Students can choose one elective paper from the following three options.)

MAPL 404A: PĀḲI CHRONICLES AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

1. Buddhist Historiography in PāḲI Texts
2. The Dīpavaṃsa and Mahāvaṃsa as Historical Sources
3. Literary Techniques in PāḲI Chronicles
4. The Role of Genealogy and Biography in Buddhist History
5. Comparative Study of PāḲI and Sanskrit Historical Writings

MAPL 404B: PĀḲI AND CONTEMPORARY BUDDHIST STUDIES

1. Revival of PāḲI Studies in Modern Academia



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2. Digital Preservation of Pāli Texts
3. Application of Pāli in Buddhist Psychology and Therapy
4. Pāli Literature in Contemporary Buddhist Movements
5. Future Prospects for Pāli Research and Teaching

MAPL 404C: PĀLI STUDIES AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES

1. Digital Resources for Pāli Research
2. Computational Linguistics and Pāli Text Analysis
3. Online Pāli Corpus and Databases
4. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Pāli Studies
5. Creating Digital Editions of Pāli Texts

7. PATTERN/SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

SEMESTER I

Paper	Paper Code	Course Title	Theory (Marks)	Practical (Marks)	Total Marks	Credits
1	MAPL 101	Introduction to Pāli Grammar and Linguistic Structure	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
2	MAPL 102	History of Pāli Literature	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
3	MAPL 103	Early Buddhist Doctrines in Pāli Texts	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
4	MAPL 104*	Elective Course(One from 104A/104B/104C)	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
TOTAL			280 (E) + 120 (I)	-	400	16

[E = External, I = Internal]

SEMESTER II

Paper	Paper Code	Course Title	Theory (Marks)	Practical (Marks)	Total Marks	Credits
1	MAPL 201	Pāli Syntax and Advanced Grammar	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4



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2	MAPL 202	Non-Canonical Pāli Literature	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
3	MAPL 203	Selected Suttas From Majjhima and Saṃyutta Nikāya	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
4	MAPL 204*	Elective Course (One from 204A/204B/204C)	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
TOTAL			280 (E) + 120 (I)	-	400	16

[E = External, I = Internal]

SEMESTER III

Paper	Paper Code	Course Title	Theory (Marks)	Practical (Marks)	Total Marks	Credits
1	MAPL 301	Advanced Pāli Grammar and Textual Analysis	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
2	MAPL 302	Buddhist Ethics and Social Engagement	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
3	MAPL 303	Gāthās and Stories From Dhammapada and Jātaka	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
4	MAPL 304*	Elective Course (One from 304A/304B/304C)	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
TOTAL			280 (E) + 120 (I)	-	400	16

[E = External, I = Internal]

SEMESTER IV

Paper	Paper Code	Course Title	Theory (Marks)	Practical (Marks)	Total Marks	Credits
1	MAPL 401	Research Methodology in Pāli Studies	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
2	MAPL 402	Pāli Chronicles and Historical Texts	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4



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3	MAPL 403	Textual Study of Selected Chapters From Visuddhimagga And Nettippakarāṇa	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
4	MAPL 404*	Elective Course (One from 404A/404B/404C)	70 (E) + 30 (I)	-	100	4
5	MAPL 405	Dissertation	-	250	250	10
TOTAL			280 (E) + 120 (I)	250	650	26

[E = External, I = Internal]

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY/SUGGESTED READINGS

SEMESTER I

CORE COURSES

MAPL 101: INTRODUCTION TO PĀLI GRAMMAR AND LINGUISTIC STRUCTURE

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Kaccāyana Vyākaraṇa* – The oldest extant Pāli grammar text.
2. *Moggallāna Vyākaraṇa* – A detailed grammatical work by Moggallāna.
3. *Saddanīti* – A comprehensive grammatical treatise by Aggavaṃsa.

Books (Modern Sources):

4. Geiger, Wilhelm. *Pāli Literature and Language*. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2000.
5. Warder, A.K. *Introduction to Pāli*. Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2005.
6. Duroiselle, Charles. *A Practical Grammar of the Pāli Language*. Rangoon: Government Press, 1906.
7. Norman, K.R. *A Philological Approach to Buddhism: The Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai Lectures 1994*. Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 2006.

MAPL 102: HISTORY OF PĀLI LITERATURE

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Vinaya Piṭaka* – The monastic disciplinary code.



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2. *Sutta Piṭaka* – Collection of Buddha's discourses.
3. *Abhidhamma Piṭaka* – The philosophical and psychological analysis of Buddhist teachings.
4. *Dīpavaṃsa* and *Mahāvāṃsa* – The earliest chronicles of Sri Lanka.
5. *Aṭṭhakathās* (Commentaries) – Explanations on the Tipiṭaka by Buddhaghosa and other scholars.

Books (Modern Sources):

6. Bapat, P.V. *2500 Years of Buddhism*. Delhi: Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 1956.
7. Malalasekera, G.P. *The Pali Literature of Ceylon*. Colombo: M.D. Gunasena, 1958.
8. von Hinüber, Oskar. *A Handbook of Pāli Literature*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1997.
9. Winternitz, M. *History of Indian Literature, Vol. 2*. New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1988.

MAPL 103: EARLY BUDDHIST DOCTRINES IN PĀLI TEXTS

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Dīgha Nikāya* – Long discourses of the Buddha.
2. *Majjhima Nikāya* – Middle-length discourses.
3. *Saṃyutta Nikāya* – Discourses grouped thematically.
4. *Aṅguttara Nikāya* – Numerical discourses.
5. *Dhammapada* – Verses of the Buddha on ethics and wisdom.
6. *Visuddhimagga* – Buddhaghosa's treatise on Theravāda meditation and philosophy.

Books (Modern Sources):

7. Rahula, Walpola. *What the Buddha Taught*. London: Gordon Fraser, 1959.
8. Gethin, Rupert. *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
9. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pāli Canon*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2005.
10. Conze, Edward. *Buddhist Thought in India*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1962.

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Elective Courses [MAPL 104]

MAPL 104A: PĀLI PROSODY AND POETICS

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Vuttodaya* – A classical treatise on Pāli meters.
2. *Chanda Sutta* (AN 4.67) – A sutta on poetic expression.
3. *Dhammapada* and *Jātaka Tales* – Examples of poetic expression in Pāli.

Books (Modern Sources):

4. Warder, A.K. *Indian Kāvya Literature*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1972.
5. Norman, K.R. *Pāli Literature: Including the Canonical Literature in Prakrit and Sanskrit*. Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 1991.
6. Siegel, Lee. *Sacred and Profane Dimensions of Love in Indian Traditions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1978.

MAPL 104B: PĀLI MANUSCRIPTOLOGY AND PALEOGRAPHY

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Brahmi and Sinhala Inscriptions* – Early written records of Pāli.
2. *Kuthodaw Inscription* – The world's largest book in Myanmar, inscribed in Pāli.
3. *Theragāthā and Therīgāthā Manuscripts* – The oldest Buddhist poetry collections.

Books (Modern Sources):

4. Salomon, Richard. *Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Other Indo-Aryan Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
5. von Hinüber, Oskar. *A Handbook of Pāli Literature*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1997.
6. Dani, Ahmad Hasan. *Indian Palaeography*. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1997.

MAPL 104C: PĀLI AND BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Abhidhamma Piṭaka* – Detailed analysis of Buddhist psychology.
2. *Saḷāyatana Sutta* (MN 137) – Explains sensory perception.
3. *Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta* (MN 10) – Explains mindfulness practice.



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Books (Modern Sources):

4. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *The Abhidhamma Studies*. Bangkok: Buddhist Publication Society, 2003.
5. Gethin, Rupert. *The Buddhist Path to Awakening: A Study of the Bodhi-Pakkhiyā Dhammā*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.
6. Kalupahana, David. *The Principles of Buddhist Psychology*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1987.

SEMESTER II

CORE COURSES

MAPL 201: INTERMEDIATE PĀLI GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Kaccāyana Vyākaraṇa* – The oldest known Pāli grammar.
2. *Moggallāna Vyākaraṇa* – A comprehensive grammatical treatise.
3. *Saddanīti* – A detailed work on Pāli phonology, morphology, and syntax.
4. *Subodhāṅkāra* – A classical work on Pāli composition and rhetoric.

Books (Modern Sources):

5. Geiger, Wilhelm. *Pāli Literature and Language*. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2000.
6. Warder, A.K. *Introduction to Pāli*. Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2005.
7. Duroiselle, Charles. *A Practical Grammar of the Pāli Language*. Rangoon: Government Press, 1906.
8. Norman, K.R. *Pāli Literature: Including the Canonical Literature in Prakrit and Sanskrit*. Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 1991.

MAPL 202: POST-CANONICAL PĀLI LITERATURE

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Milindapañha* – Dialogues between King Milinda and Nāgasena.
2. *Petakopadesa* – An exegetical treatise explaining Buddhist doctrine.
3. *Dīpavaṃsa* and *Mahāvaṃsa* – Early chronicles of Sri Lanka.



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4. *Aṭṭhakathās* (Commentaries) – Buddhaghosa's and other commentators' explanations of the Tipiṭaka.
5. *Jātaka Tales* – Stories of the Buddha's past lives.

Books (Modern Sources):

6. Malalasekera, G.P. *The Pāli Literature of Ceylon*. Colombo: M.D. Gunasena, 1958.
7. von Hinüber, Oskar. *A Handbook of Pāli Literature*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1997.
8. Collins, Steven. *Nirvana and Other Buddhist Felicities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
9. Gombrich, Richard. *Theravāda Buddhism: A Social History from Ancient Benares to Modern Colombo*. London: Routledge, 1988.

MAPL 203: SELECTED SUTTAS FROM MAJJHIMA AND SAṂYUTTA NIKĀYA

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Majjhima Nikāya* (PTS Edition) – Edited by V. Trenckner & R. Chalmers
2. *Saṃyutta Nikāya* (PTS Edition) – Edited by L. Feer
3. *Majjhima Nikāya Aṭṭhakathā (Papañcasūdanī)* – Buddhaghosa
4. *Saṃyutta Nikāya Aṭṭhakathā (Sāratthappakāsinī)* – Buddhaghosa

Books (Modern Sources):

5. Bhikkhu Ñāṇamoli & Bhikkhu Bodhi (trans.). *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Majjhima Nikāya*, Wisdom Publications, 1995.
6. Bhikkhu Bodhi (trans.). *The Connected Discourses of the Buddha: A Translation of the Saṃyutta Nikāya*, Wisdom Publications, 2000.
7. Bhikkhu Bodhi. *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pāli Canon*, Wisdom Publications, 2005.
8. Gethin, Rupert. *The Foundations of Buddhism*, Oxford University Press, 1998.
9. K.R. Norman. *Pāli Literature: Including the Canonical Literature in Pāli*, Otto Harrassowitz, 1983.





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ELECTIVE COURSES (MAPL 204)

MAPL 204A: PĀLI LINGUISTICS AND SEMANTICS

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Saddanāṭi* – A classical text on phonetics and morphology.
2. *Brahmi and Sinhala Inscriptions* – Linguistic evolution in early Pāli.
3. *Aṭṭhakathās* – Discussions on semantics in early Buddhist commentaries.

Books (Modern Sources):

4. Norman, K.R. *A Philological Approach to Buddhism*. Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 2006.
5. Warder, A.K. *Indian Kāvya Literature*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1972.
6. Salomon, Richard. *Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Other Indo-Aryan Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

MAPL 204B: PĀLI METAPHYSICS AND ABHIDHAMMA

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Abhidhamma Piṭaka* – The metaphysical framework of Theravāda Buddhism.
2. *Dhammasaṅgaṇī* – The classification of mental and physical phenomena.
3. *Vibhaṅga* – Analyzing different aspects of Buddhist psychology.
4. *Puggalapaññatti* – An enumeration of different types of individuals.

Books (Modern Sources):

5. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *The Abhidhamma Studies*. Bangkok: Buddhist Publication Society, 2003.
6. Gethin, Rupert. *The Buddhist Path to Awakening: A Study of the Bodhi-Pakkhiyā Dhammā*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.
7. Kalupahana, David. *The Principles of Buddhist Psychology*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1987.
8. Karunadasa, Y. *The Theravāda Abhidhamma: Its Inquiry into the Nature of Conditioned Reality*. Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, 2010.



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MAPL 204C: PĀLI LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

Primary Pāli Sources:

1. *Dhammapada* – A collection of verses with multiple translations.
2. *Suttas from the Majjhima Nikāya and Dīgha Nikāya* – Translated by different scholars.
3. *Jātaka Tales* – Various translations and comparative studies.
4. *Theragāthā and Therīgāthā* – Poems of early Buddhist monks and nuns.

Books (Modern Sources):

5. Rahula, Walpola. *What the Buddha Taught*. London: Gordon Fraser, 1959.
6. Gombrich, Richard. *What the Buddha Thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
7. Bodhi, Bhikkhu (Trans.). *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pāli Canon*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2005.
8. Norman, K.R. *Collected Papers on Buddhist Studies*. Oxford: Pali Text Society, 1991.

SEMESTER III

CORE COURSES

MAPL 301: ADVANCED PĀLI GRAMMAR AND TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

Primary Sources:

1. *Kaccāyana Vyākaraṇa* – Traditional Pāli grammar text.
2. *Saddanīti (Aggavaṃsa)* – Comprehensive grammar of Pāli.
3. *Moggallāna Vyākaraṇa* – Another essential grammar work.

Modern Works:

1. Geiger, Wilhelm. *Pāli Literature and Language*.
2. Warder, A.K. *Introduction to Pāli*.
3. Norman, K.R. *A Philological Approach to Buddhism: The Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai Lectures 1994*.

MAPL 302: BUDDHIST ETHICS AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Primary Sources:

1. *Sigālovāda Sutta* (Dīgha Nikāya) – Ethics in social relations.



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2. *Cakkavatti-Sihanāda Sutta* (Dīgha Nikāya) – Social responsibilities of a ruler.
3. *Mahāparinibbāna Sutta* (Dīgha Nikāya) – Final teachings of the Buddha on ethics.

Modern Works:

1. Keown, Damien. *Buddhist Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*.
2. King, Sallie B. *Socially Engaged Buddhism*.
3. Sivaraksa, Sulak. *The Wisdom of Sustainability: Buddhist Economics for the 21st Century*.

MAPL 303: GĀTHĀS AND STORIES FROM DHAMMAPADA AND JĀTAKA

Primary Sources:

1. *Dhammapada* – Edited by O. von Hinüber and K.R. Norman (PTS)
2. *Dhammapada Aṭṭhakathā* – Buddhaghosa
3. *Jātaka with Commentary (Jātakaṭṭhakathā)* – Edited by V. Fausböll (7 Vols., PTS).

Modern Works:

1. E.W. Burlingame (trans.). *Buddhist Legends: Dhammapada Commentary*, Harvard Oriental Series
2. Cowell, E.B. et al. (eds.). *The Jātaka or Stories of the Buddha's Former Births*, Cambridge University Press (6 Vols.)
3. Bhikkhu Bodhi. *The Buddha's Teachings on Social and Communal Harmony*, Wisdom Publications, 2016.
4. Rhys Davids, T.W. & C.A.F. *Buddhist India*, London, 1903.
5. Appleton, Naomi. *Jātaka Stories in Theravāda Buddhism: Narrating the Bodhisatta Path*, Ashgate, 2010.

ELECTIVE COURSES [MAPL 304]

MAPL 304A: PĀḲI COMMENTARIAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS

Primary Sources:

1. *Dīgha Nikāya Aṭṭhakathā (Sumaṅgalavilāsinī)* – Commentary on the Dīgha Nikāya.



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2. *Majjhima Nikāya Aṭṭhakathā (Papañcasūdanī)* – Commentary on the Majjhima Nikāya.
3. *Samantapāsādikā* – Commentary on the Vinaya Piṭaka.

Modern Works:

1. Malalasekera, G.P. *The Pāli Literature of Ceylon*.
2. von Hinüber, Oskar. *A Handbook of Pāli Literature*.

MAPL 304B: PĀLI INSCRIPTIONS AND HISTORICAL SOURCES

Primary Sources:

1. *Aśokan Edicts* (Pāli versions).
2. *Dipavaṃsa & Mahāvaṃsa* – Chronicles of Sri Lanka.
3. *Nālandā and Sarnath Inscriptions* – Important Buddhist epigraphic records.

Modern Works:

1. Salomon, Richard. *Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions*.
2. Bapat, P.V. *2500 Years of Buddhism*.

MAPL 304C: PĀLI AND BUDDHIST MEDITATION TEXTS

Primary Sources:

1. *Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta (Majjhima Nikāya)* – Mindfulness meditation.
2. *Ānāpānasati Sutta (Majjhima Nikāya)* – Breath meditation.
3. *Vimuttimagga* – Another classical meditation manual.

Modern Works:

1. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha*.
2. Analayo, Bhikkhu. *Satipatthana: The Direct Path to Realization*.
3. Gombrich, Richard. *What the Buddha Thought*.



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SEMESTER IV

CORE COURSES

MAPL 401: PĀḲI PHILOLOGY AND TEXTUAL STUDIES

Primary Sources:

1. *Saddanġti (Aggavaṃsa)* – A classical PāḲi grammar.
2. *Kaccāyana Vyākaraṇa* – Traditional grammatical analysis.
3. *Moggallāna Vyākaraṇa* – Alternative grammatical approach.

Modern Works:

1. .Norman, K.R. *PāḲi Literature: Including the Canonical Literature in Prakrit and Sanskrit*.
2. Warder, A.K. *Introduction to PāḲi*.
3. von Hinüber, Oskar. *A Handbook of PāḲi Literature*.
4. Salomon, Richard. *Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions*.
5. Collins, Steven. *Nirvana and Other Buddhist Felicities: Utopias of the Pali Imaginaire*.

MAPL 402: BUDDHIST RITUALS AND PERFORMANCE TRADITIONS

Primary Sources:

1. *Vinaya Piḡaka* – Rules and monastic rituals.
2. *Dġgha Nikāya & Khuddakapāḡha* – Ritual recitations and ethical instructions.
3. *JātaḲa Tales* – Buddhist storytelling traditions.

Modern Works:

1. Gombrich, Richard. *Theravāda Buddhism: A Social History from Ancient Benares to Modern Colombo*.
2. Skilling, Peter. *Rituals and Performance in Early Buddhist Texts*.
3. Tambiah, Stanley J. *Buddhist Saints of the Forest and the Cult of Amulets*.
4. Holt, John C. *Ritual and Power in Buddhist Sri Lanka*.



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MAPL 403: TEXTUAL STUDY OF SELECTED CHAPTERS FROM VISUDDHIMAGGA AND NETTIPPAKARAṆA

Primary Sources:

1. *Visuddhimagga* – Buddhaghosa, edited by Henry Clarke Warren & Dharmananda Kosambi (PTS)
2. *Visuddhimagga Aṭṭhakathā and Tīkā* – PTS and Sinhala editions
3. *Nettipakarāṇa* – Edited by E. Hardy (PTS), part of the Khuddaka Nikāya
4. *Nettipakarāṇa Aṭṭhakathā*

Modern Works:

1. Bhikkhu Ñāṇamoli (trans.). *The Path of Purification (Visuddhimagga)*, Buddhist Publication Society, 2011.
2. B. C. Law. *The Expositor and the Interpreter*, Indian Historical Quarterly, 1930s
3. Petra Kieffer-Pülz. *Theories of Interpretation in the Pāli Commentarial Tradition*, Journal of the PTS
4. George D. Bond. *The Buddhist Revival in Sri Lanka*, University of South Carolina Press, 1992.
5. K.R. Norman. *Collected Papers*, Vols. I–VII, PTS – Includes translations and interpretive studies.



ELECTIVE COURSES (MAPL 404)

MAPL 404A: PĀLI CHRONICLES AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources:

1. *Dīpavaṃsa* – Early Buddhist chronicle of Sri Lanka.
2. *Mahāvāṃsa* – Detailed historical account of Buddhist traditions.
3. *Thūpavaṃsa* – History of Buddhist stupas.

Modern Works:

1. Bapat, P.V. *2500 Years of Buddhism*.
2. Malalasekera, G.P. *The Pāli Literature of Ceylon*.
3. Bechert, Heinz. *When Did the Buddha Live*.



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MAPL 404B: PĀḲI AND CONTEMPORARY BUDDHIST STUDIES

Primary Sources:

1. *Vimutti-Magga* – Classical meditation and psychological analysis.
2. *Visuddhimagga* (Buddhaghosa) – The Theravāda path to liberation.
3. *PāḲi Suttas* (various) – Studies in Buddhist psychology.

Modern Works:

1. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *The Middle Length Discourses of the Buddha*.
2. Gethin, Rupert. *The Buddhist Path to Awakening*.
3. Analayo, Bhikkhu. *Mindfully Facing Disease and Death: Compassionate Advice from Early Buddhist Texts*.
4. Cousins, Lance. *Meditation in the Theravāda Tradition*.

MAPL 404C: PĀḲI STUDIES AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Digital & Computational Resources:

1. *Digital PāḲi Reader (DPR)* – Online database for PāḲi texts.
2. *Chaṭṭha Saṅgāyana Tipiṭaka (CSCD)* – Digital PāḲi Canon.
3. *GRETIL (Göttingen Register of Electronic Texts in Indian Languages)* – Online PāḲi and Sanskrit sources.

Modern Works:

1. Buswell, Robert E., Jr., and Lopez, Donald S. *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*.
2. Heim, Maria. *The Forerunner of All Things: Buddhaghosa on Mind, Intention, and Agency*.
3. Cox, Collett. *Disputed Dharmas: Early Buddhist Theories on Existence*.

9. CONSOLIDATED/Common Sources for All Semesters

PĀḲI (PRIMARY) SOURCES

1. *Kaccāyana Vyākaraṇa* – The oldest extant PāḲi grammar text.
2. *Moggallāna Vyākaraṇa* – A detailed grammatical work by Moggallāna.
3. *Saddanīti* – A comprehensive grammatical treatise by Aggavaṃsa.



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4. *Subodhālaṅkāra* – A classical work on Pāḷi composition and rhetoric.
5. *Vinaya Piṭaka* – The monastic disciplinary code.
6. *Sutta Piṭaka* – Collection of Buddha's discourses.
7. *Abhidhamma Piṭaka* – The philosophical and psychological analysis of Buddhist teachings.
8. *Dīpavaṃsa and Mahāvaṃsa* – The earliest chronicles of Sri Lanka.
9. *Aṭṭhakathās* (Commentaries) – Explanations on the Tipiṭaka by Buddhaghosa and other scholars.
10. *Dīgha Nikāya, Majjhima Nikāya, Saṃyutta Nikāya, Aṅguttara Nikāya* – Collections of Buddha's discourses.
11. *Dhammapada* – Verses of the Buddha on ethics and wisdom.
12. *Visuddhimagga* – Buddhaghosa's treatise on Theravāda meditation and philosophy.
13. *Vuttodaya* – A classical treatise on Pāḷi meters.
14. *Chanda Sutta (AN 4.67)* – A sutta on poetic expression.
15. *Jātaka Tales* – Stories of the Buddha's past lives.
16. *Theragāthā and Therīgāthā* – Poems of early Buddhist monks and nuns.
17. *Milindapañha* – Dialogues between King Milinda and Nāgasena.
18. *Petakopadesa* – An exegetical treatise explaining Buddhist doctrine.
19. *Dhammasaṅgaṇī, Vibhaṅga, Kathāvatthu* – Abhidhamma texts on Buddhist philosophy and logic.
20. *Saḷāyatana Sutta (MN 137)* – Explains sensory perception.
21. *Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta (MN 10)* – Explains mindfulness practice.
22. *Puggalapaññatti* – An enumeration of different types of individuals.
23. *Sigālovāda Sutta, Cakkavatti-Sīhanāda Sutta* – Texts on Buddhist ethics and governance.
24. *Brahmi and Other Inscriptions* – Early written records of Pāḷi.



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MODERN BOOKS AND STUDIES [SECONDARY SOURCES]

1. Bapat, P.V. *2500 Years of Buddhism*. Delhi: Publications Division, 1956.
2. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pāli Canon*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2005.
3. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *The Noble Eightfold Path: Way to the End of Suffering*. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 1994.
4. Bodhi, Bhikkhu. *The Abhidhamma Studies*. Bangkok: Buddhist Publication Society, 2003.
5. Collins, Steven. *Nirvana and Other Buddhist Felicities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
6. Conze, Edward. *Buddhist Thought in India*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1962.
7. Dani, Ahmad Hasan. *Indian Palaeography*. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 1997.
8. Duroiselle, Charles. *A Practical Grammar of the Pāli Language*. Rangoon: Government Press, 1906.
9. Geiger, Wilhelm. *Pāli Literature and Language*. Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal, 2000.
10. Gethin, Rupert. *The Foundations of Buddhism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
11. Gethin, Rupert. *The Buddhist Path to Awakening: A Study of the Bodhi-Pakkhiyā Dhammā*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.
12. Gombrich, Richard. *Theravāda Buddhism: A Social History from Ancient Benares to Modern Colombo*. London: Routledge, 1988.
13. Gombrich, Richard. *What the Buddha Thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
14. Harvey, Peter. *An Introduction to Buddhist Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
15. Kalupahana, David. *The Principles of Buddhist Psychology*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1987.
16. Karunadasa, Y. *The Theravāda Abhidhamma: Its Inquiry into the Nature of Conditioned Reality*. Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, 2010.
17. Malalasekera, G.P. *The Pāli Literature of Ceylon*. Colombo: M.D. Gunasena, 1958.



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18. Matilal, B.K. *Logic, Language, and Reality: Indian Philosophy and Contemporary Issues*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1985.
19. Norman, K.R. *A Philological Approach to Buddhism*. Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 2006.
20. Norman, K.R. *Pāli Literature: Including the Canonical Literature in Prakrit and Sanskrit*. Lancaster: Pali Text Society, 1991.
21. Norman, K.R. *Collected Papers on Buddhist Studies*. Oxford: Pali Text Society, 1991.
22. Rahula, Walpola. *What the Buddha Taught*. London: Gordon Fraser, 1959.
23. Salomon, Richard. *Indian Epigraphy: A Guide to the Study of Inscriptions in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Other Indo-Aryan Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
24. Siegel, Lee. *Sacred and Profane Dimensions of Love in Indian Traditions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1978.
25. von Hinüber, Oskar. *A Handbook of Pāli Literature*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1997.
26. Warder, A.K. *Introduction to Pāli*. Oxford: Pali Text Society, 2005.
27. Warder, A.K. *Indian Kāvya Literature*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1972.
28. Winternitz, M. *History of Indian Literature, Vol. 2*. New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1988.