



## Buddhist Philosophy

Semester: II  
Paper: VI  
Course Code: BS 551

Credit Hour: 3  
Teaching Hour: 48  
Full Mark: 100

### Course Description

This course explores key Buddhist philosophical traditions, examining their interpretations, core doctrines, and logical foundations. It provides a comprehensive study of mind and matter, karma, and the foundational philosophies of Vaibhasika, Sautrantika, Madhyamika, and Yogacara, along with their implications in Buddhist Tantra.

### Objective

The main objective of this course is to present and analyze the philosophical foundations and doctrines of major Buddhist schools, including their historical development and logical frameworks.

### Unit I: Introduction

10 TH

- 1.1. Interpretation of Philosophy
- 1.2. Buddhism as philosophy
- 1.3. Mind and Matter: *Citta* (mind), *Cetasika*, (mental factors), *Pancaskandha* (five aggregates), *rupa* (matter), *vedana* (feelings), *sanñja* (perception), *sanskar* (karmic propensities) and *viñana* (cognitive process)
- 1.4. Karma and its connection to rebirth
- 1.5. Three roots of unwholesome karma: *raga* (attachment), *dvesha* (aversion), *moha* (delusion)
- 1.6. Development of four philosophies and logics in Buddhism

### Unit II: Vaibhasika Philosophy

7 TH

- 2.1 Eminent Masters
- 2.2 Etymology, features and sub-schools
- 2.3 Theory of Dharmas
- 2.4 Concept of Pratisankhyanirodha and Apratisankhyanirodha

### Unit III: Sautrantika Philosophy

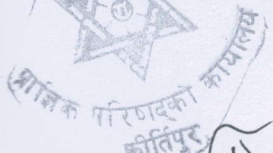
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- 3.1 Eminent Masters
- 3.2 Etymology, features and sub-schools
- 3.3 *Ksanikatvavāda* (Theory of momentary-ness)
- 3.4 Concept of Perception and Apperception

### Unit IV: Madhyamika Philosophy

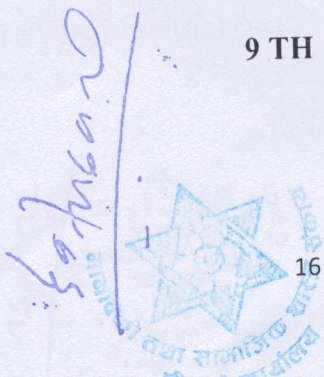
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- 4.1 Eminent Masters
- 4.2 Etymology, features and sub-schools
- 4.3 Concept of Sunyata and *niswobhava*, *anutpāda*, *catuskoti*
- 4.4 Two truths (*samvritti satya* and *paramartha satya*)



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**Unit V: Yogachara (vijñānavāda) Philosophy**

**8 TH**

- 5.1 Eminent Masters
- 5.2 Etymology, features and sub-schools
- 5.3 Concept of eight types of consciousness (the six Pravrittivijnana, Alayavijnana, and Klistamanovijnana)
- 5.4 Theory of mind only and Three nature of objects (*parikalpita*, *paratanta*, *parinispanna*)
- 5.5 Buddha nature

**Unit VI: Madhyamika-Yogacara Philosophy and its Reflection in Tantra**

**7 TH**

- 6.1 Eminent masters
- 6.2 Concept of Sunyata and Cittamatrata and their combined implication
- 6.3 Reflection of Madhyamika and Yogacara Philosophy in Buddhist Tantra Philosophy

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# Buddhist Heritage of Northern Nepal

**Semester: II**  
**Paper: VII**  
**Course Code: BS 552**

**Credit Hour: 3**  
**Teaching Hour: 48**  
**Full Mark: 100**

## Course Description

This course imparts comprehensive knowledge on Buddhist tradition and practices in the Himalayan region. It gives an account of the geographical settings of the Himalayan Buddhist communities in Nepal, dissemination of Buddhism from the 7th century and its development. The course aims to identify and understand different traditions of Buddhism with pre-Buddhist beliefs, practices, prominent scholars and textual practices.

## Objective

The main objective is to critically evaluate the interplay of geographical, historical, and cultural factors in shaping Buddhist traditions, monastic practices, and the ritual life of the Nepal Himalayas.

## Unit I: Background

- 1.1 Geographical Settings of Himalayan settlements of Nepal
- 1.2 Buddhist Ethnic Groups
- 1.3 Pre-Buddhist beliefs and faiths in Nepalese Himalaya
  - 1.3.1 Animistic (*Mi-Cho*)
  - 1.3.2 Shamanistic faith (*Bon-Cho*)
  - 1.3.3 Impact of *Mi-Cho* and *Bon-Choin* Buddhism (*Lha-Cho*)

8 TH

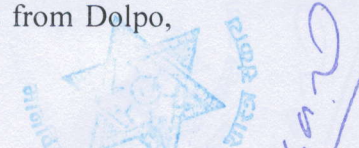
## Unit II: Introduction and Development of Buddhism in Himalayan Region 10 TH

- 2.1 Role of SrongTsenGampo, Bhrikuti and Silamanju
  - 2.1.1 Thonmi Sambhota and Development of Sambhota Scripts
  - 2.1.2 Textual Translation
- 2.2 Buddhist Monasticism in Tibet
  - 2.2.1 Role of KhenLoTshosum (Khenpo-ShantarakshLopen- Padmasambhava and Tshogyal- Trisong Deutsen)
  - 2.2.2 Establishment of Logekar Gonpa (Mustang) and Samye Gonpa in Tibet
  - 2.2.3 The first ordination in Samye Gonpa
- 2.3 Conflict of Bon and Buddhism in Tibet
  - 2.3.1 Ralpachen
  - 2.3.2 Langdarma
  - 2.3.3 Lama Lhalunq Pelgi Dorje
- 2.4 Exodus of the Tibetan form of Buddhism in Nepal Himalayas
- 2.5 Role of Nepalese Buddhist Masters in Nepal and Tibet: Four Lamas from Dolpo, Phamting-pa, Ani Orgyan Choeki



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### Unit III: Major Buddhist Traditions in Nepal Himalaya

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- 3.1 rNyingma: historicity, scholars, Terma and Kama, Zgochen
- 3.2 Sarma Traditions
  - 3.2.1 bKa' brGyud-pa ( Kagyupa): historicity, scholars, Mahamudra,
  - 3.2.2 Sa-skyapa (Sakyapa): historicity, scholars, Lamdre
  - 3.2.3 Ge-lugs-pa ( Gelukpa): historicity, scholars, Lamrim Chenmo

### Unit IV: Buddhist Literatures in Northern Nepal

8 TH

- 4.1 Role of Buton to classify the Literature
- 4.2 Classification of Buddhist Literature in Northern Nepal
  - 4.2.1 Bkah-rGyur (Kangyur): Classifications of Texts, Various Editions
  - 4.2.2 BsTang-rGyur: Classifications of Texts
  - 4.2.3 Yum: Prominent texts
  - 4.2.4 Domang: Ritual Purpose

### Unit IV: Monastic Life in Nepal Himalayas

6 TH

- 5.1 Gonpa: definition, types: bShad Drwa (Study Centre), Sgrub Drwa (Mediation Centre), Grong Gseb (Village Gonpa)
- 5.2 Lama: definition, Hierarchy: Sprul sKu (Incarnate Lama), mKhan-po, Gra pa (dGel tshul), dGe slong, Sngaga pa (Mantra Holder)
- 5.3 Nun: definition, Hierarchy: Apprentice (Genin-ma), Novice ( dGel Tshul ma), nun ( dGe slong ma)
- 5.4 Incarnate Lamas: Karmapa Lama and Shyamarpa Lama, Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama

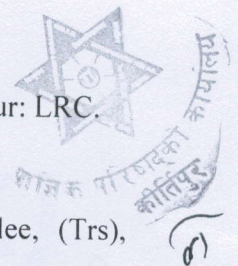
### Unit VI: Festival, Religious Practices and Rituals

8 TH

- 6.1 Festivals: Losar, Yar-tong (Mustang/Manang), Manirimdu (Solu), Tiji Festival
- 6.2 Religious Practices: Nyunge, Chotul Duchen, Saka Dawa, Lhabab Duchen,
- 6.3 Rituals:
  - 6.3.1 Birth: concept (rebirth) and birth ritual
  - 6.3.2 Death: Process of death, Phowa, Bardo, Ghewa

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## Buddhist Sanskrit Literature

Semester: II  
Paper: VIII  
Course Code: BS 553

Credit Hour: 3  
Teaching Hour: 48  
Full Mark: 100

### Course Description

This course delves into the vast corpus of Buddhist Sanskrit literature, exploring its historical development, linguistic variations, and philosophical diversity across traditions. It provides a textual study of the canon, Mahayana, and Vajrayana scriptures, emphasizing their doctrinal significance and literary richness in shaping Buddhist thought and practice.

### Objective

Its main objective is to critically analyze the linguistic, philosophical, and doctrinal dimensions of Buddhist Sanskrit literature, fostering an understanding of its role in preserving and transmitting Buddhist teachings across various traditions and schools

### Unit I: Introductory Background to Buddhist Sanskrit Literature 8 TH

- 1.1 Introduction to Sanskrit Language: *Vedic, Laukika*, and Buddhist Sanskrit
- 1.2 Use of Sanskrit in Buddhist Literature
- 1.3 Development of Twelve Angas/*Dvadasanga* of Buddha Vacana
- 1.4 Literatures of Eighteen Sects of Buddhism
- 1.5 Literature of Sravakayana and Mahayana Buddhism
- 1.6 Literature of Four Philosophical Schools of Buddhism
- 1.7 Literature of *Tantrayana/Vajrayana* Buddhism
- 1.8 Various Types of Buddhist Sanskrit Literature: *Āgama, Sutra, Vinaya, Tantra, Shastra* and *Dharani*

### Unit II: Textual Study on Canonical Literature 8 TH

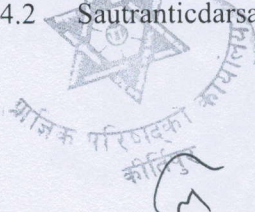
- 2.1 Lalitavistara Sutra: Introduction, *Avisambodhana Parivarta* 22<sup>nd</sup> Chapter
- 2.2 Avadana Sataka: Introduction, *Soma Avadana* (from Ashtama Varga)
- 2.3 Jatakamala: Introduction, *Matsyajatakam*

### Unit III: Textual Study on Mahayana Literature 8 TH

- 3.1 Bodhicharyavatra: Introduction, *Viryaparmita* 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter (Verses 1-20)
- 3.2 Saddharmapundrika Sutra: Introduction, *Dharani Parivarta* (21<sup>st</sup> Chapter)
- 3.3 Saddharmalankarvatarasutram: Introduction, *Ravanadeshanaparivarta: Prathama* 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter (Verses 1-43)

### Unit IV: Textual Study on Philosophical Schools of *Shravaka Yana* and Logic 8 TH

- 4.1 Abhidharmakosha: Introduction, *Dhatunirdesa* (First Chapter), (verses: 1-10, 14, 25-27, 34, and 46-48)
- 4.2 Sautranticdarsanam: Introduction, *Baihayartha-Vimarsa* (16<sup>th</sup> Chapter)



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4.3 Nyayabindu: Introduction, *Pratyaksha* (1<sup>st</sup> Chapter)

**Unit V: Textual study on Prajnaparmita Sutra and Philosophical Schools of Mahayana** **8 TH**

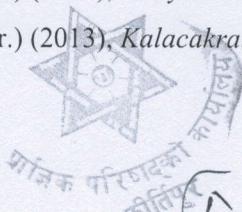
- 5.1 Vajrachhedika Prajnaparmitasutram: Introduction, Passage No 1-10 (From: *Avam maya shrutam to Atamavaba Iti*)  
5.2 Madhyamakam Sastram: Introduction, *Svabhava Pariksha* 15<sup>th</sup> chapter  
5.3 Vijnaptimatrasiddhi Vinsatika: Introduction, (Verses: 1-4, 8-10, 16-18 and 22)

**Unit VI: Textual Study of Tantra Yana/Vajra Yana Literature** **8 TH**

- 6.1 Guhyasamaja Tantra: Introduction, *Astadasha Patala* 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter (Verses: 24, 33, 38, 50, 60, 66, 67, 74, 133, 140, 142-144, 194 and 217)  
6.2 Kalachakrantram: Introduction, *Duityam Diksaprakarnam* (Verses 1-15)  
6.3 Mhamayatantram: Introduction, *Parthamo Nirdesh* (Verses: 1-34)

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## Buddhist Arts, Iconography and Scripts

Semester: II  
Paper: IX  
Course Code: BS 554

Credit Hour: 3  
Teaching Hour: 48  
Full Mark: 100

### Course Description

This course explores the evolution and significance, of Buddhist art, iconography, and scriptural traditions, emphasizing their cultural, historical, and aesthetic dimensions. It covers Buddhist artistic schools, Nepalese Buddhist art forms, ritual arts, and iconographic studies while introducing the scripts and inscriptions that reflect Buddhist heritage.

### Objective

Its objective is to analyze the development, symbolism, and cultural significance of Buddhist art and iconography integrated with the study of Buddhist scripts and inscriptions, fostering an appreciation for their aesthetic and historical contributions to Buddhist tradition.

### Unit I: Nature, Types and Sources of Buddhist Arts

6 TH

- 1.1 Definition, Nature, Types, Archaeological and Scriptural (Pali, Sanskrit) sources for art evidences of religion.
- 1.2 Realizing Buddha, Bodhisattva (symbolic to iconic) and Buddhist icons from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal.
- 1.3 Buddhist Arts Schools: Maurya, Śunga-Kusāṇa, (Mathura-Sarnath, Gandharā) Licchavi-Gupta, Deccan (Amravati), Pala, Newar and Tibet

### Unit II: Buddhist Arts of Nepal

8 TH

- 2.1 Introduction, Classification, Aesthetic Features and Styles of Nepalese Arts.
- 2.2 Images and objects from Archaeology: Lumbini, Tilaurakot, Sagarhawa, Niglihawa, viz., clay, terracotta, stone and metals (images, utensils and coins).
- 2.3 Concept and Metamorphosis in Nepalese Buddhist Arts
- 2.4 Stone Icons of Nepala-Mandala and Western Nepal (Saunakarki in Padukasthan)

### Unit III: Buddhist Sculptures and Paintings and ritual art of Nepal

6 TH

- 3.1 Aesthetic Styles of Ancient and Medieval Nepalese Icons
- 3.2 Buddha and Bodhisattva Images on Clay, Terracotta, Metals (Repousse and Casting Techniques).
- 3.3 Buddhist Cloth (Paubha, Thangka, Pata), Murals (interior and exterior), Manuscript Paintings (Cover and Illustration), and Ritual arts: Clay, Metal and Mandala

### Unit IV: Buddhist Iconography

10 TH

- 4.1 Meaning, Gesture, Poses, Intents and Vehicles of Images

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- 4.2 Philosophic Concept, Origin of Buddhist Iconographic Element viz., Complexion, Pose, Attributes, Ornaments, and Seats.
- 4.3 Iconographic features: Dipankara, Sakyamuni, Maitreya, Vajrasattva, Manjusri, Sadaksari .
- 4.4 Tara, Vasundhara, Prajnaparamita, Vajravarahi, Cakrasamvara .
- 4.5 4Dharmapalas (Mahakala), Catu-Maharaja (Caityaraja, Vinaraja, Dvajaraja, Kuvera) Bhairava and Ganesa.

#### Unit V: Buddhist Scripts

6 TH

- 5.1 Introduction to syllabic writings its origin, cyphers and types of Dhamma (Brahmi) script.
- 5.2 A brief history of Buddhist scripts as sacred writings, Kharosthi, Gupta-Licchavi, Ranjana and Pracalita with its features. [Theory]
- 5.3 Buddhist writing tools, and materials of Manuscript texts (innovation, statement of purpose, *Sankalpa-vakya*, wish, text's body and colophon).

#### Unit VI: Alphabets and Numericals (Practical)

12 TH

- 6.1 Dhamma (Brahmi), Licchavi and Pracalita Newari
- 6.2 Transliteration from Lumbini and Niglihawa Incription of Brahmi
- 6.3 Translation of Priyapala's Tebaha, Tyagal, and Svayambhu inscriptions from Licchavi > Roman > Licchavī
- 6.4 Translation of any stanzas from medieval texts viz., Gunakarandavyuha, Prajnaparamita, Vimalaprabha etc. into Brahmi, Licchavi and Pracalita

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## Buddhism of Nepal Mandala

**Semester: II**

**Paper: X**

**Course Code: BS 555**

**Credit Hour: 3**

**Teaching Hour: 48**

**Full Mark: 100**

### Course Description

This course explores the unique Buddhist traditions, practices, and manuscript culture of Nepal-mandala by unearthing its spiritual, cultural, and monastic heritage. Students will engage with the concept of Nepal-mandala, its historical evolution, religious practices, vihāras, sanghas, and the contributions of eminent Buddhist scholars and Acharyas.

### Objective

The main objective is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the religious, cultural, and monastic traditions of Nepal-mandala, emphasizing its significance in Buddhist history, ritual practices, and manuscript preservation, while fostering appreciation for its enduring spiritual heritage.

### Unit I: Introduction to Nepal-mandala and its Spirituality

6 TH

- 1.1 Nepal-mandala: concept, territorial and cultural domain
- 1.2 Nepal-mandala: sacred term in Buddhism, and present status
- 1.3 *Svayambhū*: religio-cultural center of Buddhist practices
- 1.4 Visit of *Saptatathāgata* and formation of Nepal-mandala

### Unit II: Buddhist Tradition in Nepal-Mandala

8 TH

- 2.1 Monasticism in Licchavi and Medieval periods
- 2.2 Impact of Four philosophical schools and its traces.
- 2.3 Religio-cultural impression of Mahāyāna
- 2.4 Bases of changes: Philosophical and Textual based changes (in ordination pattern, omission of *upasampadā*, householder monastics etc.) setting *Vajrayāna* framework in Nepal-mandala

### Unit III: Buddhist Practice in Nepal-Mandala

8 TH

- 3.1 *ĀdiBuddha*: inspirational emblem, its emanations
- 3.2 Concept of *Triratna*: Buddha and Buddhamandala, Dharma and Dharma mandala and Sangha and Sanghamandala
- 3.3 Concept of Bodhisattva: Bodhisattva ideals, types, working icons for Buddhist practice
- 3.4 *Ādikarmi* Bodhisattva: meaning, duties

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- 3.5 Ritualistic approach, use of mantra, mudra, dhārani and Mandala philosophy for actualization of rituals, transformation of textual verses into ritual verses.

**Unit IV: Vihāras and Sangha Tradition of Nepal-Mandala**

**10 TH**

- 4.2 Existing Vihāras and its Classification (Bahās and Bahis)
- 4.3 Vihāras (Baha) and its related Sanghas
- 4.3.1 *Mubāhā* and its Sangha
- 4.3.2 *Kachābāhā* and its Sangha
- 4.4 Vihāra (*Bahi*) and its related Sangha
- 4.4.1 *Mubahi* and its Sangha
- 4.4.2 *Kachābahi* and its Sangha
- 4.5 Sangha tradition of Nepal- Mandala and their monastic identity
- 4.5.1 *Śākyabhikṣusangha* and its ordination tradition
- 4.5.2 *Vajrācāryasangha* and its initiation tradition
- 4.6 Monastic office of elders: *Mulcakresvar*, *Cakresvar*, *MahaSthavir*, *Sthavir* (*ThāyepāAju*), *betaju* and *Sangha āju*
- 4.7 Monastic activities: *Sanghakarma*, *Sangha* assembly

**Unit V: Buddhist Traditional Oriented Practices**

**10 TH**

- 5.1 Sangha Oriented Practices
- 5.1.1 *Nhikam* (Daily Practices)
- 5.1.2 Monastic duties to Worship Buddha and Bodhisatva
- 5.1.3 Recitation Buddhist Stotra, Gātha, Dhārani
- 5.1.4 Monthly, Annual and certain fixed year practices
- 5.1.5 *Dishi Pooja* (Summer and Winter *Dishi Pooja*)
- 5.1.6 *Aunsi Pooja*
- 5.2 Laity Oriented Practices
- 5.2.1 *Gunlā*: demonstration of Buddhist activities
- 5.2.2 *Dhalan* and *Vratas*: *Astami*, *Mahānkāla*, *Manjushree*, *Vasundharā*, *Astavaitaraga* and *Dvashatirtha*
- 5.2.3 *Dāna* practices: *Panca-dān*, *Navadāna* and *SamyakMahādān*
- 5.2.4 Story telling
- 5.2.5 *Baha Pooja* and *Caitya Pooja*



**Unit VI: Buddhist Manuscript Culture and Prominent Acharya and Scholars 6 TH**

- 6.1 Early Acaryas: *Manjudeva*, *Santikara*, *Sasvotabajra*, *Bajrapada*, *Vachasiddhi*, *Vakavajra*, *Vagisvarakirti*, *Samantasri* and *Punyakarabhadra*
- 6.2 Medieval Acharya: *Suratabajra*, *Jivacandra*, *Lilavajra* and *Manjuvajra*
- 6.3 Buddhist Scholars: *Buddhakirti*, *Pt. Amritananda*, *Pt. Nishthananda*, *Pt. Ratnabhadur* and *Pt. Divyabajra*

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