

**International Bachelor of Arts Degree Programme
Faculty of Buddhism
Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University**

**Course: Buddhism and World Peace
The 4th Year Class
The First Semester, Academic Year 2013**

Lecturer

Ven. Ashin Sumanacara

Email: skartala@yahoo.com

1. Course Description

This course aims at providing students with the basic knowledge and understanding of the application of Buddhist theory and practices for promoting world peace. An examination of the views of Buddhism on issues of war and peace, nonviolence and peace, social justice, etc. is discussed in this course. Each topic is discussed by drawing material from the original Buddhist texts and analyzed with modern concepts.

2. Learning outcomes for participants:

The course is designed to produce the following outcomes for course participants. At the end of the course, they will be able:

- (a) To recognise the root causes for conflict and violence;
- (b) To understand the consequences of conflict and violence;
- (c) To identify strategies to overcome the conflict-the precondition for peace;
- (d) To critically evaluate the role of Buddhism in achieving world peace.

3. Course Outline:

1. Introduction to the course.
2. Human rights, equality and social justice.
3. War and peace: Buddhist analyses of the causes of conflict; solutions to conflict.
4. Buddhist political ideals.
5. Buddhist virtuous approach towards world peace: nonviolence (*ahimsā*), tolerance (*khānti*), loving-kindness (*mettā*) and compassion (*karuṇā*), etc.
6. Buddhist spiritual approach towards world peace: mindfulness meditation.
7. Interfaith dialogue and Peace-building.

8. Buddhist action for peace in the modern world: Thich Nhat Hanh and the order of interbeing; The Buddhist peace fellowship; Peace activities of Japanese Nichiren-based schools, Sarvodaya Sramadāna movement in Sri Lanka.

3. Essay Title: Write a short essay (at least 5 pages) on the Buddhist perspective of world peace.

4. Lecture techniques:

- (a) Class room lectures;
- (b) In class discussion;
- (c) Reading assignments from Internet, books and journals;
- (d) Essay and participants' presentation.

5. Course Requirements:

Students are required to:

- (a) Complete all assigned readings
- (b) Maintain regular attendance
- (c) Participate in class discussion

6. Assessment of course (grading): Total 100 Marks

- (a) One final exam = 60% of final grade.
- (b) A short essay presentation with 10 minutes duration = 30% of final grade (start in the month of September, 2012).
- (c) Attendance = 10% of final grade.

7. Special Instructions for Exam and Assignment

(a) Final exams will cover the assigned readings and class discussions of them, and will involve describing, explaining, and evaluating texts, concepts, and arguments.

(b) The essay/presentation must include an introduction and a conclusion.

(c) Cite references according to MCU format.

(d) Assignment essay are intended to familiarize you with the readings, encourage you to develop your skills in reasoning, and reflect on philosophical and religious issues in different cultural and historical contexts and from a variety of perspectives. It is better to do this directly than use unreliable sources on the internet. Please note that your own thinking and writing should be more critical, engaged, precise, and it should be your own on the basis of the text and the class lectures and discussions.

8. Criteria for marking essay/presentation:

- (a) Good and correct understanding of the Buddhist teaching given in the lectures,
- (b) Clear, logical and rational presentation of your ideas and thoughts,
- (c) Show that you have read at least five books in your essay either in your footnotes or endnotes and list them at the end.

Recommended Readings

Students are recommended to thoroughly read the following publications and prove that they have done so in class discussions and the final examination.

Recommended reading list:

- Barash, D.P. (2000). *Approaches to Peace*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Chappell, D.W. (1999). *Buddhist Peace Work: Creating Cultures of Peace*. Boston: Wisdom Publications.
- Gier, N.F. (2004). *The Virtue of Nonviolence: from Gautama to Gandhi*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Harris, I. (ed.) (2007). *Buddhism, Power and Political Order*. New York: Routledge.
- Harvey, P. (2000). *An introduction to Buddhist Ethics: Foundations, Values, and Issues*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kalupahana, D.J. (1999). *The Buddha and the Concept of Peace*. A Sarvodaya Vishva Lekha Publication, Sri Lanka.
- Ken, J. (2003). *The New Social Face of Buddhism: An Approach to Political and Social Activism*. London: Wisdom Publications. pp. 86-105.
- King, S.B. (2005). *Being Benevolence: The Social Ethics of Engaged Buddhism*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press,
- Kraft, K. (1992). *Inner Peace, World Peace: Essays on Buddhism and Nonviolence*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- McConnell, J.A. (1995). *Mindful Mediation – A Hand Book for Buddhist Peacemakers*. Dehiwala: Buddhist Cultural Centre.
- McLeod, M. (2006). *Mindful Politics: a Buddhist Guide to Making the World a Better Place*. Somerville: Wisdom Publications.
- Mun, C. (2006). *Buddhism and Peace: Theory and Practice*. Hawaii: Jung Bap Sa Buddhist Temple.
- Thich Nhat Hanh (2003). *Creating True Peace: Ending Violence in Yourself, Your Family, Your Community, and the World*. New York: Free Press.
- Buddhist Approach to Political Conflict and Peace Development, UNDV Conference Volume, Thailand, 2009.