

Announcement

Textual Traditions and Practices of Buddhism

Immersion through Language

7 February – 1 June 2024

(19.00-21.00 hrs)



The Buddhist Seminary at the Faculty Theology and Religion offers an elective course as part of the 1 year Spiritual Care program. This course is accessible for

- Master students of FTR, Psychology VU and UvA,
- Students Ambtsopleiding Buddhist Spiritual Care
- Guest students in professional roles like mindfulness trainers and practitioners of Buddhism with a keen interest in the Pali canonical sources.

Course description

In this course we will study, and practice a little, the wisdom teachings in the Pali canon by means of comparative investigation of two baskets of the tipitaka: suttas (discourses) and Theravada abhidhamma (Buddhist Psychology). Translations from Pali to English will be compared to explore meanings of key concepts in the Pali canon. To what essences do the suttas (teachings) refer and how do they relate to the detailed descriptions of mind, dependent arising and enlightenment in Buddhist psychology (Abhidhamma)? Comparison of contemporary (neuropsychological) insights in consciousness and ancient ways of looking at consciousness and practices aiming at the release of suffering will be encouraged.

SuttaCentral contains early Buddhist texts, known as the Tipiṭaka or “Three Baskets”. This is a large collection of teachings attributed to the Buddha or his earliest disciples, who were teaching in India around 2500 years ago. SuttaCentral hosts the texts in original languages, translations in modern languages, and extensive sets of parallels that show the relationship between them all.



We are delighted that **Venerable Vimala** from Tilorien Monastery (Belgium) will introduce SuttaCentral. Working alongside a team of developers and scholars, Ayya Vimala has been a core contributor during many years. SuttaCentral is an invaluable source for both academic researchers and lay practitioners who wish to learn more about the foundations of Buddhism.

Objectives of this course. To develop skill in use of online resources of the Pali textual tradition. Develop knowledge and understanding of Pali key terminology and deepen understanding about the relationship between discourses in the Pali canon and expositions of the mind (consciousness) in Theravada Abhidhamma (Buddhist Psychology). Learn about the aim of some chanting by monastics and the meaning of taking refuge. Students can compare features of ancient theory and contemporary modes of (meditation) practice and their strengths and weaknesses.

Lecturer: Dr. Riët Aarsse

Riët Aarsse is a dhamma infused research psychologist. She studied and practiced with renowned teachers and scholars both in the East and the West. She is teacher Insight Dialogue and retreat teacher insight meditation (vipassana).



The course aims mainly at investigating the content of discourses in relation to Buddhist Psychology. There will be several ways of diving into profound theory and practices by means of study, comparison, discussion, dhamma contemplation methods, and there will be some reflections on findings around consciousness in the field of neurocognitive psychology.

The

Course Planning:

Starting 7 February, sessions on Wednesday from 19.00-21.00 hrs. Saturday 23 March and Saturday 25 May there will be in-person gatherings from 10.30-16.00 hrs. These allow for student presentations, shared dhamma contemplations and discussions and explorations of some traditional chants.

Overview:

		Date	Time	Form*
1	Wednesday	07/02/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Online*
2	Wednesday	14/02/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Online
3	Wednesday	21/02/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Hybrid*
4	Wednesday	28/02/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Online
5	Wednesday	06/03/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Hybrid
6	Wednesday	13/03/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Online
	Wednesday	20/03/2024	roostervrij	
7	Saturday	23/03/2024	10.30-16.00 hrs	In person*

	Wednesday	27/03/2024	optional	Online
8	Wednesday	03/04/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Online
9	Wednesday	10/04/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Hybrid
10	Wednesday	17/04/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Online
11	Wednesday	24/04/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Hybrid
12	Wednesday	01/05/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Online
13	Wednesday	08/05/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Hybrid
14	Wednesday	15/05/2024	19.00-21.00 hrs	Online
		22/05/2024	No class	
15	Saturday	25/05/2024	10.30-16.00 hrs	In person

*Online: all online; Hybrid: students and guests at VU, distant learners online; In person: all come together at VU

Number of credits: 6ECTS (MA/PG/CPD – validated at VU Faculty of Religion and Theology)

Cost:

The costs for this course are:

€ 149 per individual participant.

€ 398 for CPD participants with employers' contribution.

FREE for students currently enrolled at the Buddhist Spiritual Care trajectory at the VU (BA minor Buddhism, pre-master, MA Spiritual Care, Buddhism track and post-academic Ambtsopleiding). Students Psychology VU, UvA.

The fee covers for the whole course and non-refundable. Bank details below. Interested in this course but can't afford the fee? Contact us for concessions.

All course materials literature will be sent digitally after registration and prior to the course.

The general terms and conditions for Faculty of Religion and Theology at the VU Amsterdam courses apply to this course.

Bank details:

NL: IBAN bankrekeningnummer: NL04DEUT0421756705 (BIC/Swift: DEUTNL2AXXX)

Tenaamstelling Bankrekeningnummer: Stichting VU

Onder vermelding van nummer: H/109000.001

Dit nummer altijd vermelden!

Please also send us a transaction receipt for the fee payment by email.

For more information and registration please contact the coordinator,

Dr. Elza Kuijk, email: e.kuijk@vu.nl

Registration Questionnaire



If you are currently not studying at VU, please also complete the following questionnaire and sent it to dr. Elza Kuijk at e.kuijk@vu.nl.

Name in Full:

Contact email/phone:

If applicable, profession:

Do you have experience with Buddhist practices and studies?

No

Yes, namely:

Do you have experience with contemporary practices and studies, such as mindfulness?

No

Yes, namely :

Please give your reason(s) or intentions for wishing to attend this course:

Thank you for your application and welcome to the course.

Please sent it to: at e.kuijk@vu.nl.