

Fall-Spring 2014-15

## Reading Pāli with Burmese Manuscripts

Course numbers: variable

Time: TBA

Place: TBA

Instructor: Christoph Emmrich

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Office: Centre for the Study of Religion, 170 St. George St.,  
Jackman Humanities Building, Room 303

Office hours: on appointment

### A. Description and guidelines

#### **Objectives and methodology:**

The main objective of this course is to help students learn to translate Pāli into English and to familiarize themselves with one basic source for doing research on Buddhist literature: manuscripts. The chosen texts are in Pāli and were produced in Burma. The main content of the course programme will consist of learning to translate into English from the source language, learning to access one of its many scriptural codes (Burmese script) and navigating the intricacies of accessing, identifying and documenting manuscripts. The goal is to have students read basic Pāli texts in transliteration, acquire the skill to read the opening lines as well as the colophons (i.e. the concluding section usually containing information on the title, the date and place of production and the scribe) of a Pāli manuscript from Burma and to attempt a rough description, as one would find it in an annotated catalogue.

#### **Description of student participation:**

Students will receive training in the grammar, vocabulary and translation methodologies of Pali (module 1) as well as in reading and transliterating the Burmese Pali script (module 2). In spring a third module will be added in which students will be taught the basic principles of manuscriptology and develop further the skills acquired in the fall term by working on different, individually assigned, electronically reproduced manuscripts from Burma. The students' final product will be a partial transliteration and translation as well as a description of a yet uncatalogued Pali manuscript from Burma.

#### **Evaluation**

Language: Pali - English translation 1, quiz: 15%. Date: Oct., 2014

Language: Pali - English translation 2, quiz: 15%. Date: Dec., 2014

Script: Burmese Pali - Romanized Pali transliteration, quiz: 15%. Date: by Jan., 2015

Manuscriptology: manuscript description, transliteration and translation, quiz, 15%. Date: by Jan., 2015

Manuscriptology: manuscript description, transliteration and content summary, essay: 40 %. Date: by April, 2015

### Course grading scheme

#### Undergraduate

A+	90-100%	B+	77-79%	C+	67-69%	D+	57-59%
A	85-89%	B	73-76%	C	63-66%	D	53-56%
A-	80-84%	B-	70-72%	C-	60-62%	D-	50-52%
F	0-49%						

#### Graduate

A+	90-100%	B+	77-79%	F	0-69%
A	85-89%	B	73-76%		
A-	80-84%	B-	70-72%		

### Interaction with the course instructor

Address all your requests and queries about the course to the course instructor. Though incoming mails are viewed on a daily basis and though the course instructor will try to address your issues as swiftly as possible, it may take up to three days for the instructor to reply to your mail, so do wait for that period before reacting and do mail in time if you have any urgent requests. Always prearrange meetings, also those during office hours, by email or in person.

### Recommended preparation:

None. But Sanskrit Beginners and Introduction to Buddhism RLG 206Y1 (UTSG) / RLG 206H5 (UTM) are helpful.

### Textbooks:

- Collins, Steven. *A Pali Primer for Students*. Chiang Mai: Silkworm Books, 2005.
- Gair, James W. & W. S. Karunatilake. *A New Course in Reading Pāli*. Delhi Motilal Banarsidass, 2005 (reprint; originally published 1998).

All required readings will be made available by the instructor. Please contact Christoph Emmrich in time to obtain your copy of the textbooks,