

**Syllabus for Postgraduate Diploma in Ambedkar and Buddhism**

**(A course applicable to students of the University Department)**

**From the Academic Year 2021–2022**

**Approved by the Ad-hoc Board of Studies in Pali Literature and Culture**

**Savitribai Phule Pune University**

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### **Postgraduate Diploma in Ambedkar and Buddhism**

#### **General Instructions about the Course, the Pattern of Examination and the Syllabus**

##### **I. General Instructions**

**I.1 General Structure:** Postgraduate Diploma in Ambedkar and Buddhism is a two-semester course of sixteen credits offered by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University. The course is to be completed within one year. It contains four courses of four credits each. All courses are also available as elective courses for students doing any Choice Based Credit Course in the university.

Students will be introduced to Ambedkar's journey to Buddhism, his writings and speeches related to Buddhism, and his approach to Buddhism through lectures, seminars, group discussions, and project work. Teaching of semesters, I and II will be sequential. Syllabus of each course will be discussed in sixty clock hours (approximately) during each semester. Students are expected to design and carry out a small research project on any chosen theme connecting Buddhism and Ambedkar as a part of course II.2.

Students' understanding will be assessed on the basis of their performance on things, such as assignments, debate on conceptual issues, group discussion, essay writing, seminar presentation, tutorial writing, written and oral examination, project work, etc.

Students are expected to maintain at least 75% attendance and to ensure their active participation in the class.

**I.2 Introduction:** Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (1891–1956), a revolutionary social and religious thinker of twentieth century India and the leader of down-trodden communities, realised that Hinduism dominated by Brahmanism is unable to give equal status and rights as human beings to the down-troddens. Having studied all major religions, he arrived at the conclusion that Buddhism suited to the criteria of ideal religion. He embraced Buddhism along with millions of his followers on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1956. While adopting Buddhism, Ambedkar also felt the need for reinterpretation and reformulation of Buddhism. His work *The Buddha and His Dhamma* presents his interpretation of Buddhism. Many researchers in the field of History, Sociology, Religious Studies, and Philosophy have appreciated and analysed Ambedkar's adoption and interpretation of Buddhism.

On this background it is important to understand Ambedkar's journey to Buddhism, his approach to Buddhism and the appraisal of Ambedkar's presentation of Buddhism. The Postgraduate Diploma in Ambedkar and Buddhism offers this opportunity to students.

It is in the scope of this course to present a historical account of Ambedkar's embrace of Buddhism and his vision for the future of Buddhism. The course also aims at introducing students to the basic concepts of traditional Buddhism and the way Ambedkar presents them through his writings and speeches. It would also help students to understand different approaches of Indian and foreign scholars reflected in their appraisal of Ambedkar's interpretation and presentation of Buddhism. Ultimately, the course will encourage the students to critically evaluate Ambedkar's relation to Buddhism and would inspire them to compare traditional Buddhist concepts and Ambedkar's appraisal of them.

**I.3 Objectives:** The objectives of the Postgraduate Diploma in Ambedkar and Buddhism are:

- To introduce Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's journey to Buddhism, and his appraisal of Buddhism
- To study Ambedkar's writings on Buddhism
- To study different approaches to Ambedkar's presentation of Buddhism

**I.4 Eligibility:** Graduation in any faculty from a recognised institute

**I.5 Duration:** The duration of the Postgraduate Diploma in Ambedkar and Buddhism will be one academic year consisting of two semesters of fifteen weeks each.

**I.6 Course Fee:** The Admission Fee for the course, the Annual Tuition Fee, Examination Fee, Record Fee, Statement of Marks and other essential fees will be as per the rules and regulations of the Savitribai Phule Pune University.

**I.7 Teaching:**

- Medium of instruction - English or Marathi
- Lectures - Four lectures and one tutorial/practical per course per week, i.e., ten hours per week for fifteen weeks in a semester.
- Lectures of courses I.1 and I.2 and their evaluation will be done in the first semester.
- Lectures of courses II.1 and II.2 and their evaluation will be done in the second semester.

## **II. Pattern of Examination**

**II.1 Assessment and Evaluation:**

- A Postgraduate Diploma student will be assessed for his/her performance at a written test of 400 marks i.e., four courses of 100 marks each, course work, viva voce, library work, and field work.
- For each semester there will be an external examination of 50 marks and an internal examination of 50 marks per course.

- The external examination will be held at the end of each semester.
- The internal assessment will be carried out throughout the semester.
- The nature of the internal assessment will be varied. It will include at least three components out of written test, essay writing, group discussion, seminar presentation, tutorial writing, debate on conceptual issues, and oral exam.

## **II.2 Passing:**

- To pass the Postgraduate Diploma in Ambedkar and Buddhism examination a candidate must obtain 40% of the total marks in each of the external and internal examination (i.e., separate passing: 20 in external and 20 in internal examination)
- Or, aggregate 40% marks with at least 30% marks in either external or internal examination (i.e., 15 marks out of 50)
- Those of the successful candidates will be given appropriate grades in accordance with the grading pattern accepted by the university.

## **II.3 Question Pattern:**

### **Semester I**

**Course I.1: Ambedkar's Journey to Buddhism, Course I.2: The Buddha and His Dhamma (100 marks each)**

### **Semester II**

**Course II.1: Ambedkar's Other Writings on Buddhism (100 marks)**

- External written examination 50 marks: Long answer (30 marks), short answer (12 marks), and short note (8 marks)
- Internal examination 50 marks: Any three components out of written test, essay writing, group discussion, seminar presentation, tutorial writing, debate on conceptual issues, and oral exam, etc.

**Course II.2: Different Approaches to Ambedkar's Presentation of Buddhism (100 marks)**

- External written examination 50 marks: Project report (50 marks)
- Internal examination 50 marks: Any three components out of written test, essay writing, group discussion, seminar presentation, tutorial writing, debate on conceptual issues, and oral exam, etc.

## **III. Syllabus**

### **III.1 Outline:**

#### **Semester I**

Course I.1: Ambedkar's Journey to Buddhism

Course I.2: The Buddha and His Dhamma

## **Semester II**

Course II.1: Ambedkar's Other Writings on Buddhism

Course II.2: Different Approaches to Ambedkar's Presentation of Buddhism

## **III.2 Detailed Syllabus:**

### **Semester I**

#### **Course I.1: Ambedkar's Journey to Buddhism**

Credit 1: Conditions leading to Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism - Social background; social movements and decision to leave Hinduism

Credit 2: Ambedkar's introduction to Buddhism and its further study, his search of ideal/true religion and critical evaluation of different religious traditions

Credit 3: Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism and his vision of the future of Buddhism

Credit 4: Ambedkar's action plan for creating an ideal Buddhist society - Writing of The Buddha and His Dhamma; creation of ritual manuals namely Bauddha Pūjā Pāṭha and Bauddha Saṃskāra Pāṭha; a plan to establish the Buddhist seminary; the establishment of socio-religious, educational, and political organizations, such as Buddhist Society of India, Peoples' Education Society, the Republican Party of India, and other organizations.

#### **Text books:**

1. Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (1993). "Waiting for a Visa (Autobiographical notes)." Edited by Vasant Moon. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar : Writings and Speeches*. Vol.12: 662-691. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.
2. Keer, Dhananjay. 1962. *Dr. Ambedkar- Life and Mission*. Bombay: Popular Prakashan.
3. Sangharakshita. 1986. *Ambedkar And Buddhism*. Glasgow: Windhorse Publications.

#### **Reference books:**

1. Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (1998). "Bouddha Pooja Patha." Edited by Vasant Moon. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*. Vol. 16. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.
2. Ambedkar, B. R. 2002–2016 (2002). *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Lekhana āṇi bhāṣaṇe*. Vol. 18 (Pts. 1–3). Edited by Vasant Moon. Mumbai: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Source Material Publication Committee, Higher Education Department, Government of Maharashtra.

3. Ambedkar, B. R. 2003. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*. Vol. 17 (3). Edited by Hari Narake. Mumbai: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Source Material Publication Committee, Higher Education Department, Government of Maharashtra.
4. Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (1979). *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*. Vol. 1. Edited by Vasant Moon. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.
5. Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (2003). *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches* Vol. 17 (Pts. 1 & 2). Edited by Hari Narake. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.
6. Ambedkar, B. R. 2005. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Lekhana āṇi bhāṣaṇe*. Vols. 19 & 20. Edited by Hari Narake. Mumbai: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Source Material Publication Committee, Government of Maharashtra.

#### **E-sources:**

1. Writings and Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in English and Hindi:  
<http://drambedkarwritings.gov.in/content/writings-and-speeches.php>
2. Writings and Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Marathi:  
<https://velivada.com/dr-b-r-ambedkar-books-2/>
3. <https://www.sangharakshita.org/index.php>

#### **Course I.2: The Buddha and His Dhamma**

Credit 1: Introduction, Preface, Prologue, and Book 1 – The purpose of writing the book; important questions before of Ambedkar; outline and sources of the Buddha and His Dhamma; unique presentation of the Buddha’s biography; relation of Buddha with his predecessors and contemporaries, comparison and contrast; establishing uniqueness and freshness of Buddha’s teachings

Credit 2: Books 2 and 3, Ambedkar’s unique way of presenting the Buddha’s teachings - First sermon: Purity, righteousness, and virtues; social inclusiveness reflected in Buddha’s campaign of conversion, Buddha’s inclusive approach; notions of Adhamma, Dhamma, and Saddhamma – Individual and social dimensions of Buddhism

Credit 3: Books 4 and 5 – Unravelling fundamental conceptual differences concealed by common terminology: Distinction between religion and Dhamma; discussion of some key concepts - Rebirth, karma, ahiṃsā, and transmigration; sermons on socio-political questions; Buddha’s conception of Saṅgha; the duties of monastics and laity; the notion of ideal bhikkhu

Credit 4: Books 6–8, and epilogue – Buddha’s relation with his contemporaries; reception of Buddha’s teachings in his contemporary society; further explanation and justification of Buddhist doctrine; Buddha’s relationship to his near and dear ones; refusal to appoint a successor; Buddha’s human personality; Ambedkar’s vision of Buddhism

**Text book:**

Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (1957). “The Buddha and His Dhamma.” Edited by Vasant Moon. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*, Vol. 11. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.

**Reference books:**

1. Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (1957). “Supplement to The Buddha and His Dhamma Vol. 11.” Edited by Vasant Moon. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*, Vol. 11. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.
2. Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (2003). “A letter to Jawaharlal Nehru regarding the Book The Buddha and His Dhamma.” *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*. Vol. 17 (1). Edited by Hari Narake. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation.
3. Ghodeswar, Devidas, trans. 1994. *The Buddha and His Dhamma*. Nagpur: Samata Prakashan.
4. Kausalyayan, Bhadanta Ananda, trans. 1997 (1961). *Bhagavān Buddha aura Unakā Dhamma*. Nagpur: Buddha Bhumi Prakashan.
5. Rathod, Akash Singh, and Ajay Verma, ed. 2011. *The Buddha and His Dhamma, A Critical Edition*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
6. Sangharakshita. 1986. *Ambedkar And Buddhism*. Glasgow: Windhorse Publications.

**E-sources:**

1. Writings and Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in English and Hindi:  
<http://dramedkarwritings.gov.in/content/writings-and-speeches.php>
2. Writings and Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Marathi:  
<https://velivada.com/dr-b-r-ambedkar-books-2/>
3. <https://www.sangharakshita.org/index.php>

**Semester II****Course II.1: Ambedkar’s Other Writings on Buddhism**

Credit 1: Revolution and Counter Revolution

Credit 2: Buddha and The Future of His Religion; Indian History Is Nothing But Struggle Between Buddhism and Brahmanism; The Untouchables, Who Were They and Why They Became Untouchables? (Part IV, Chapter IX: Contempt for Buddhists as the Root of Untouchability); The Rise and Fall of The Hindu Woman, Who Was Responsible for It?; Buddhism Disappeared From India Due to Wavering Attitude of the Laity

Credit 3: Decline of Buddhism, Keep Before Your Eyes the Struggle of Gautama Buddha and Ramanuja; Pandurang Was None Other than Buddha; Buddhism Paved Way for Democracy

and Socialistic Pattern of Society; There Is Difference Between the Ahimsā Preached by Buddhism and Jainism

Credit 4: The Buddha or Karl Marx; Buddhist Movement in India: A Blue Print; Bhikkhus Should Serve the Buddha by Becoming Preachers of His Dhamma; I Believe, My People Will Sacrifice Everything to Establish Buddhism in India; Non-Believers Should be Converted to The Eight-Fold Path; If Buddhist Gospel Is Not Adopted History of Conflict in Europe Will Repeat in Asia; The Tide of Buddhism Would Never Recede in India

**Text books:**

1. Ambedkar, B. R. 2003. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*, Vol. 17 (3). Edited by Hari Narake. Mumbai: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Source Material Publication Committee, Govt. of Maharashtra.
2. Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (1987). *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*, Vol. 3. Edited by Vasant Moon. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.
3. Ambedkar, B. R. 2014 (2003). *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*, Vol. 17 (2). Edited by Hari Narake. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.
4. Ambedkar, B. R. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*, Vol. 17 (1). Edited by Hari Narake. New Delhi: Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India.

**Reference books:**

1. Ambedkar, B. R. 2002. *Dr. Bābāsāheb Āmbedkar Lekhan āṇi bhāṣaṇe*. Vol. 18 (3). Edited by Vasant Moon. Mumbai: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Source Material Publication Committee, Higher Education Department, Government of Maharashtra.
2. Ambedkar, B. R. 2005. *Dr. Bābāsāheb Āmbedkar Lekhan āṇi bhāṣaṇe*. Vol. 20. Edited by Hari Narake. Mumbai: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Source Material Publication Committee, Govt. of Maharashtra.

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1. Writings and Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in English and Hindi:  
<http://dramedkarwritings.gov.in/content/writings-and-speeches.php>
2. Writings and Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Marathi:  
<https://velivada.com/dr-b-r-ambedkar-books-2/>



## **Course II.2: Different Approaches to Ambedkar's Presentation of Buddhism**

Credit 1: Buddhism as Religion: Urgyen Sangharakshita's approach

Credit 2: Social/Socially Engaged Buddhism: Approaches of Eleanor Zelliot, D. C. Ahir, and Christopher Queen

Credit 3: Reconstruction of Traditional Buddhism: Gail Omvedt, Raosaheb Kasbe, Pradeep Gokhale, Com. Sharad Patil

Credit 4: Impact of Deweyan Pragmatism: Scott Stroud

### **Text books:**

1. Gokhale, Pradeep. 2013. *Comrade Sharad Patil yāṁce Vaicārika Yogadāna āṇi Ambedkara-vāda*. Aurangabad: Kaushalya Prakashan.
2. Gokhale, Pradeep. 2018. "Ambedkar and Modern Buddhism: Continuity and Discontinuity." *Indian Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 45 Nos. 2-3, April-Sept, 2018, pp. 91-114
3. Jondhale, Surendra, and Johannes Beltz, eds. 2004. *Reconstructing the World: B. R. Ambedkar and Buddhism in India*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
4. Kasbe, Raosaheb. 1985. *Ambedkar āṇi Marx*. Pune: Sugava Prakashan.
5. Omvedt, Gail. 2003. *Buddhism in India: Challenging Brahmanism and Caste*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
6. Patil, Sharad. 2018. *Marxvāda Phule Ambedkarvāda*. Second. Shirur: Mavlai Prakashan.
7. Queen, Christopher, and Sallie King, eds. 1996. *Engaged Buddhism: Buddhist Liberation Movements in Asia*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
8. Sangharakshita. 1986. *Ambedkar and Buddhism*. Glasgow: Windhorse Publications.
9. Stroud, Scott R. 2017. "Pragmatism, Persuasion, and Force in Bhimrao Ambedkar's Reconstruction of Buddhism." *Journal of Religion*, 97 (2), pp. 214-243.
10. Stroud, Scott R. 2017. "What Did Bhimrao Ambedkar Learn from John Dewey's 'Democracy and Education'?" *The Pluralist*, Vol. 12 (2), pp. 78-103.
11. Stroud, Scott R. 2018. "Creative Democracy, Communication, and the Uncharted Sources of Bhimrao Ambedkar's Deweyan Pragmatism." *Education & Culture: The Journal of the John Dewey Society*, 34 (1), pp. 61-80.
12. Zelliot, Eleanor. 2013. *Ambedkar's World: The Making of Babasaheb and the Dalit Movement*. Delhi: Navayana Publishing.

## Reference books:

1. Gokhale, Pradeep, ed. 2008. *The Philosophy of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar*. Pune: IPQ Publication and Sugava Prakashan.
2. Gokhale, Pradeep. 1991. "Āmbedakarānce navabauddhayāna", *Samājaprabodhan Patrikā*, Year 28, no. 114, Jan.-March 1991. Republished: *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Gaurava Grantha*, (ed.) Daya Pawar et al, Mahārāstra Rājya Sāhitya āni Sanskr̥tī Mandal, Mumbai, 1993.
3. Gokhale, Pradeep. 2004. "Secularizing Buddhism: A Comparative overview of B. R. Ambedkar's and S. N. Goenka's Approaches to Buddhism." *Buddhism In Global Perspective*, Mumbai: Somaiya Publications. 61-69
4. Gokhale, Pradeep. 2004. Navabauddhayānācyā samyak ākalanācyā diśene, *Samājaprabodhana Patrikā*, Year 42, no. 169, October-December 2004.
5. Gokhale, Pradeep. 2006. *Dr. Āmbedkarāṃce Dhammacakrapravartana* (Booklet: Dr. Ambedkar's Turning of the Wheel of Dhamma), Yeole: Krantisimha Nana Patil Academy.
6. Gokhale, Pradeep. 2011. "Dr. Ambedkar's Conversion to Buddhism and Its Relevance for the Post-Modern Condition." Edited by Yashodhara Hadke. *Buddhism: Ambedkar Issues and Interpretations*. Nagpur: Dr. Baban Taywade, Dhanwate national College. 1-8
7. Gokhale, Pradeep. 2016. "Dr. Ambedkar on the Trio of Principles: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity." *Dialogue Quarterly* (A Journal of Astha Bharati, New Delhi), Vol. 17, No. 3, Jan.-March, 2016. 66-80
8. Gokhale, Pradeep. 2017. "The Possibility of Secular Buddhism." *Proceedings of the Institute of Oriental Studies, RAS. Issue. 1: Tibetology and Buddhology at the Crossroads of Science and Religion*; editors: Shaumyan Tatyana Lvovna, Kuzmin Sergey Lvovich. Institute of Oriental Studies, RAS. Moscow, pp. 160-172.
9. Keer, Dhanajay. 1962. *Dr. Ambedkar- Life and Mission*. Bombay: Popular Prakashan.
10. Khabde, Dinkar. 1989. *Dr. Ambedkar and Western Thinkers*. Pune: Sugava Prakashan.
11. Rathod, Akash Singh, and Ajay Verma. 2011. *The Buddha and His Dhamma, A Critical Edition*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

12. Stroud, S. R. 2017. "The Rhetoric of Conversion as Emancipatory Strategy in India: Bhimrao Ambedkar, Pragmatism, and the Turn to Buddhism." *Rhetorica: A Journal of the History of Rhetoric*, Vol. XXXV, Issue 3, pp. 314-345.
13. Stroud, Scott R. 2017. "The Like-minded-ness of Dewey and Ambedkar." *Forward Press*, May 19, 2017, pp.1-9

**E-sources:**

1. For the writings of Scot Stroud on Ambedkar and Pragmatism:  
<https://utexas.academia.edu/ScottStroud>
2. <https://www.sangharakshita.org/index.php>