

DEPARTMENT OF BUDDHIST STUDIES
BA (Prog.) with Buddhist Studies as DSE-3
SEMESTER-VIII

Discipline Specific Elective Course

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITE OF THE COURSE

Course Title & Code	Total Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility Criteria/Pre- requisite	Pre-requisite of the course, if any
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical		
DSE-3 Buddhist Ecology	4	3	1	0	Class XII Passed	Nil

Learning Objective: -

This course introduces ecological ideas present within Buddhist traditions, highlighting interdependence, compassion toward all living beings, non-harm, restraint, and harmonious coexistence with nature. It examines how classical teachings illuminate contemporary environmental concerns and sustainability practices.

Course Learning Outcome

This course will help the students to understand the ecological insights rooted in Buddhist philosophical and ethical frameworks, explaining how Buddhist teachings support environmental protection and sustainable living. It analyses contemporary ecological issues through the principles of interdependence, compassion, and mindful conduct, showing how these foundational ideas offer holistic approaches to addressing environmental challenges. Additionally, the paper evaluates modern ecological movements shaped by Engaged Buddhist thought and forms of environmental activism, highlighting their contribution to cultivating responsibility toward the natural world.

SYLLABUS OF DSE-3, SEMESTER-VIII

Buddhist Ecology

Unit I — Foundations of Buddhist Ecological Thought (10 Hours)

- Interdependence (*paṭiccasamuppāda*) as ecological insight.
- Non-harm (*ahiṃsā*) and compassion (*karuṇā*) towards all living beings.
- Early Buddhist perspectives on nature, life, and environmental balance.
- Reverence for life and ethical concern for animals, plants, and natural spaces.

Unit II — Buddhist Ethics and Environmental Responsibility (12 Hours)

- The ethical precepts and their ecological implications.
- Moderation (*appicchatā*, *santosa*) and sustainable consumption.
- Psychological foundations of mindful and responsible conduct towards nature.
- Environmental responsibility in monastic discipline and mindful daily living.

Unit III — Ecology in Buddhist Texts and Traditions (12 Hours)

- Ecological themes in the Jātakas and early Nikāya literature.
- The forest-dwelling tradition and preservation of natural habitats.
- Symbolic and cultural significance of trees, groves, rivers, and landscapes.
- Treatment of animals, water resources, and land in classical textual ethics.

Unit IV — Contemporary Buddhist Ecological Thought (11 Hours)

- Modern Buddhist teachers and global ecological initiatives.
- Engaged Buddhist movements and environmental activism.
- Responses to climate degradation, pollution, and unsustainable development.
- Applications of mindfulness and compassion for environmental awareness.

Suggested Readings:

1. Akuppa. (2009). *Saving the Earth*. Cambridge, UK: Windhorse Publications Ltd.
2. Badiner, Allan Hunt (Ed.). (1990). *Dharma Gaia: A Harvest of Essays in Buddhism and Ecology*. Berkeley: Parallax Press.
3. Bandarage, Asoka. (2013). *Sustainability and Well-Being: The Middle Path to Environment, Society and the Economy*. New York, NY: Palgrave Pivot.
4. Batchelor, Martine, & Brown, Kerry (Eds.). (1992). *Buddhism and Ecology*. London & New York: Cassell.
5. Cooper, David E., & James, Simon P. (2005). *Buddhism, Virtue and Environment*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing Company.
6. Davies, Shannon (Ed.). (1987). *Tree of Life: Buddhism and Protection of Nature*. Buddhist Perception of Nature Project.
7. Dwivedi, O. P. (1994). *Environmental Ethics: Our Dharma to the Environment*. New Delhi: Sanchar Publishing House.
8. Hanh, Thich Nhat. (2008). *The World We Have: A Buddhist Approach to Peace and Ecology*. Berkeley, CA: Parallax Press.

9. Kabilsingh, Chatsumarn (Dhammananda Bhikkhunī). (1990). *Buddhist Perspectives on the Ecological Crisis*. London: Buddhist Publication Society.
10. Kaza, Stephanie. (2019). *Green Buddhism: Practice and Compassionate Action*. Boulder: Shambhala Publications.
11. Loori, John Daido. (1999). *Teachings of the Insentient: Zen and the Environment*. Mt. Tremper, NY: Dharma Communications Press.
12. Macy, Joanna. (1991). *World as Lover, World as Self*. Berkeley: Parallax Press.
13. Morgante, Amy. (1997). *Buddhist Perspectives on the Earth Charter*. Boston: Boston Research Center for the 21st Century.
14. Pandey, K. C. (Ed.). (2007). *Ecological Perspectives in Buddhism*. New Delhi: Readworthy Publications Pvt. Ltd.
15. Pathak, S. K. (Ed.). (2004). *Buddhism and Ecology*. New Delhi: OM Publications.
16. Ryan, P. D. (1998). *Buddhism and the Natural World*. Birmingham: Windhorse Publications.
17. Sandell, Klas (Ed.). (1987). *Buddhist Perspectives on the Ecocrisis*. Kandy, Sri Lanka: Buddhist Publication Society.
18. Schmithausen, Lambert. (1991). *The Problem of the Sentience of Plants in Earliest Buddhism*. Tokyo: International Institute for Buddhist Studies.
19. Snyder, Gary. (1995). *A Place in Space: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Watersheds*. Washington, DC: Counterpoint Press.
20. Stanley, John; Loy, David R.; & Dorje, Gyurme (Eds.). (2009). *A Buddhist Response to the Climate Emergency*. Boston, MA: Wisdom Publications.
21. Tiyanich, Kamala. (2003). *The Buddha in the Jungle*. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
22. Tucker, Mary Evelyn, & Williams, Duncan Ryūken (Eds.). (1997). *Buddhism and Ecology: The Interconnection of Dharma and Deeds*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.