

Buddhist College of Singapore
 B.A. in Buddhist Studies – Year I
 Lesson Plans for Semester 1, 2020/21 Academic Year (from 31st August 2020 – 08
 January 2021)
 Course Code 000 191 - Indian Philosophical and Religious Ideas Prior to the Buddha

Week	Date (Day)	Lecture Outline	Remarks
1	31 August Monday	The Indus Valley Civilization	
1	04 Sept Friday	Conti.	
2	07 Sept Monday	The Origins of Vedic Religion / animism, polytheism/ henotheism/monotheism	
2	11 Sept Friday	Conti.	
3	14 Sept Monday	Sacraments in Hinduism (<i>Samskāras</i>)	
3	18 Sept Friday	The Fourfold Cast System and the duties of each caste (<i>Caturvarṇa</i>)	
4	21 Sept Monday	The Fourfold Stage of Brahmins (<i>Caturvarṇāśramadharmā</i>)	
4	25 Sept Friday	Tutorials – writing practice	
5	28 Sept Monday	Buddhist critique on sacrifices (<i>Yāga</i> , <i>Yañña</i>)	
5	02 Oct Friday	The origins of <i>Śramaṇa</i> movement in pre-Buddhistic period and contemporary śramaṇas with the Buddha and their teachings.	
6	05 Oct Monday	Materialism – (<i>Lokāyatavāda</i>)	

6	09 Oct Friday	Past Karmic Determinism (<i>Pubbekatahetuvāda</i>)	
7	12 Oct Monday	Women's status under the Pre-Vedic and Vedic religion	
7	16 Oct Friday	Female ascetics in Śramaṇa traditions and Bhikkhūnī Order in Buddhism	
8	19 Oct Monday	Group Presentations	
8	23 Oct Friday	Group Presentations	
9	26 Oct Monday	Group Presentations	
9	30 Oct Friday	Feed back of the presentations	
10	02 Nov Monday	Tutorials – writing practice	
10	06 Nov Friday	The Six Heretics and their teachings – Reading the <i>Sāmaññaphala Sutta</i>	
11	09 Nov Monday	Conti.	
11	13 Nov Friday	Buddhist attitude towards self-indulgence and self-mortification (<i>Kāmasukhallikānuyoga</i> and <i>Attakilamathānuyoga</i>)	
12	16 Nov Monday	Conti.	
12	20 Nov Friday	Tutorials - writing practice	
13	23 Nov Monday	Four Vedas and their sections Veda (saṃhitā), Brāhmaṇa, Āraṇyaka, Upaniṣad	

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13	27 Nov Friday	Conti.	
13 – 15	28 Nov – 07 Dec	Study Week	
15	11 Dec Friday	The <i>Upaniṣadic</i> teachings (<i>Vedānta</i>)	
16	14 Dec Monday	Group Presentations	
16	18 Dec Friday	Group Presentations	
17	21 Dec Monday	Group Presentations	
17	25 Dec Friday	Holiday – Christmas Day	
18	28 Dec – 01 Jan 21	Revision Week	
19	04 – 08 January	Examinations	
Semester Break – 09 Jan – 07 March			

N.B. Consultation Hours: Every Wednesday from 2-5 P.M. (If classroom teaching resumed)