

Beginning Classical Tibetan Summer Intensive 2021

Orientation sessions start from June 9, and classes run from June 14 to August 5 (eight weeks).

The Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute is pleased to offer an intensive Beginning Classical Tibetan course for beginning Tibetan students. Classes are held Mondays through Fridays and students are expected to devote considerable time and effort to this intensive course.

Course Structure and Schedule:

Beginning Classical Tibetan, TLAN 115	Hours per week	Section 1 (Nepal Time)	Section 2 (Nepal Time)
Master Class	Five one-hour classes per week	M-T-W-Th-F 7:45a-8:45a	M-T-W-Th-F 5:45p-6:45p
Review Class	Three one-hour classes per week	M-W-F 4:00p – 5:00p	M-W-F 6:30a – 7:30a
Plus: In addition to live classes, prerecorded videos are also available for study and review prior to the live classes at a time of your own choosing.			
Plus: Virtual office hours to provide 1-to-1 support.			

Orientation alphabet-class schedule: June 9–11, 2021

Beginning Classical Tibetan, TLAN 115	Hours per day	Section 1 (Nepal Time)	Section 2 (Nepal Time)
Wednesday 9 th	One	7:45a-8:45a	5:30p-6:30p
Thursday 10 th	One	7:45a-8:45a	5:45p-6:45p
Friday 11 th	One	7:45a-8:45a	5:45p-6:45p
Plus: In addition to live classes, prerecorded videos are also available for study and review prior to the live classes at a time of your own choosing.			

Course Description:

This intensive summer course introduces students to the fundamentals of Tibetan grammar and guides them through selected portions of classical Tibetan literature. In the first month of the course, we will progress through the Classical Tibetan Grammar Handbook (Collet-Cassart 2011). Here students will become familiar with 1) the nominal and verbal usages of the particles and 2) the different classes of verbs. With a foundation in the fundamentals of Tibetan grammar, we will then read primary source Tibetan texts. This serves to further introduce the student to new vocabulary and grammatical structures while also exposing them to different genres of literature, both in poetry and prose. By the end of this course, students will be able to begin producing their own translations of simple texts.

This two-month course is intensive and equivalent to two semesters of beginning classical Tibetan (TLAN 101 and TLAN 102). This course is a university-level course and can be taken for academic credit through Kathmandu University's Centre for Buddhist Studies. Six credits will be earned for its successful completion. The level of intensity of the courses is high and students are expected to invest considerable time and effort in order to meet class requirements and academic expectations. All students have access to the course materials online through the Microsoft Teams environment used by RYI for its classes. Available class materials include the PDF textbook, videos, homework assignments, and supplemental learning materials. Students are also expected to attend class with the instructor one hour per day, Monday – Friday at a time suitable for their time zone (see the course schedule). The instructor will review the material covered in previous days, sharing extra insights into the material, while also taking questions. There is also a review class taught by an assistant instructor that meets three times per week. Both classes offer a great opportunity for students to ask questions on any material that was unclear, get answers on other Tibetan language-related questions, and hear the questions that other students ask.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the Tibetan script. **If you are not familiar with the Tibetan script, please log-in to our Tibetan Alphabet course, which is included as part of your enrollment in this class.** Additionally, students should be able to view the audio/video lectures on a computer or hand-held device, read Tibetan fonts on a computer, and type in Tibetan, since some quizzes and homework assignments require students to type in Tibetan. Refer to the handout entitled “Reading and Typing in Tibetan” provided with the course materials for assistance with preparing your computer to work with Tibetan fonts. Because this course focuses on the written language and assumes the ability to read and write in Tibetan, there is little emphasis on the pronunciation of new vocabulary, although the Tibetan Alphabet class does include audio files of native speakers pronouncing the letters and simple words.

Structure of the Course: This 8-week course covers the basic rules of Tibetan grammar, based on the PDF textbook provided. During the first half of the course, students will gain a foundation in the basics of Tibetan grammar, equipping them with enough knowledge to begin translating while not overwhelming them with an excess of additional information. In the second half of the class, students continue learning grammar in the context of translating primary source texts.

A Note about the Lessons: The lectures are intended to supplement – not replace – careful study of your textbook. It is best to read the required pages of your textbook before viewing the videos for each lesson. You may also wish to revisit the textbook after viewing the lecture, to clarify any additional points. If you still have questions about the content of a lecture after careful study of your textbook, please don't hesitate to ask them during our live review classes. This semester, we are using an updated version of the textbook. As a result, some of the page numbers mentioned in the lectures do not correspond to our updated book. Where necessary, updated page numbers are annotated in red in the PowerPoint lectures.

Admission Criteria:

Students must have completed high school and be able to speak and write English at a level for university study. All applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

All applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies. For more information, please refer to the Eligibility Requirements and Admissions Process for the summer program.

Application:

To apply for the course please select the Admission tab, then click on the “Apply to RYI” link. Scroll down to click on the “Apply Now!” button. Then choose the course that you wish to study from the dropdown menu, where you will find general information and an application form for the course.

Studying Online:

To take part in the course you will need to have access to a PC, Mac or Linux computer capable of running Microsoft Teams, which you can download free of charge here: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app> .