Course Description:

This course is designed to guide students through the initial stages of identifying and translating suitable text(s) in preparation for completing their MA theses in a timely manner. This course and its complement—BSTD 803—are unique in that the trajectory of the class is largely driven by students' individual interests as well as their preparation and participation.

As a prerequisite for participation in this class, each student must have submitted a thesis proposal to the TTIP faculty committee (Diane Denis, Daniel McNamara, Julia Stenzel, and Maria Vasylieva). They should have received approval from the committee. If that is not possible, the student should submit—during or before the first class session—a revised version of their proposal that reflects the committee’s feedback.

Unless otherwise specified, class meetings will consist in students' taking turns reading and workshopping their original translation(s) in relation to their thesis. The number of times an individual student’s work is discussed—as well as the length and content of those discussions—is determined in part by the number of students overall and partly by the nature and trajectory of each thesis project.

At least twenty-four hours before each class meeting, students are expected to submit—to the entire class—the Tibetan text and prepared translation of the section of text they plan to workshop, along with any other potentially relevant materials (e.g., corresponding passages in Sanskrit or another classical Buddhist languages). This is referred to the “24-hour rule,” and it is essential that all students follow it in order for the course to be maximally beneficial for all participants. Students are strongly recommended to submit these materials earlier than that. The 24-hour rule is necessary in part so that the instructor(s) can adequately prepare, but students are also expected—as a necessary component of the course, and as reflected in assessments and grading—to read others' translations beforehand and come prepared to discuss them.

Assessments:
Class Participation (includes workshopping others’ translations): 20%
Preparation for workshopping your own translation sections in class: 30%
Final Assignment: Draft of translations 50%