Course Code | TLAN 101
Course Title | Classical Tibetan I
Semester, Year | Fall 2024
Schedule: class day & time | **On Campus Section:**
| | Lecture - Monday and Wednesday 9:45a-11:15a NPT
| | Traditional Class - Tuesday 10:00a-11:00a NPT
| | **Online Section:**
| | Lecture - Tuesday and Thursday 9:00pm - 10:30pm NPT
| | Traditional Class - Wednesday 8:00pm - 9:00pm NPT

Required text(s) | Collet-Cassart, Benjamin. *A Classical Tibetan Grammar Handbook*. A digital version will be available for students. More digital text files and handouts will be provided online over the semester.

Optional Readings | The Rangjung Yeshe dictionary created by Erik Pema Kunsang is available online, along with some additional dictionary resources, at: [http://rywiki.tsadra.org/index.php/Main_Page](http://rywiki.tsadra.org/index.php/Main_Page).

**PREREQUISITES:**

*Familiarity with the Tibetan script.* This knowledge can be obtained through our Tibetan alphabet class during orientation if you are unfamiliar with reading and pronouncing Tibetan syllables and letters. **The alphabet course is available to students signed up for this course for credit,** and video lectures on learning the alphabet will be available on the Orientation team. The RYI alphabet class includes explanations on how to pronounce the letters and simple words, provided by both native speakers and non-native speakers, followed by practice sessions with native speakers.

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 quizzes and homework assignments require students to type in Tibetan. Instructions for installing Tibetan software on your PC, setting up your Mac for Typing Tibetan, and learning the Wylie input method provided by the Orientation Team will help you prepare your computer to work with Tibetan fonts.

**Course Description**

**On Campus Section:**
This course introduces students to basic classical Tibetan vocabulary and grammar, emphasizing first familiarizing students with basic grammatical principles and then facilitating proficiency in them through practical application. The course covers the principal topics of classical Tibetan grammar using digital grammar handouts and short textual passages from Tibetan Buddhist literature. The teaching method involves a blend of prerecorded lectures and on-campus classes, which include Q&A and group discussions. In addition to three weekly hours of master classes held by an international instructor, there will be one weekly hour of a traditional class led by an instructor who is Tibetan-speaking and familiar with indigenous Tibetan grammar. After completing this course, students will be able to read and understand essential classical Tibetan texts with a dictionary.

All activities outside class time occur on "Teams," the teamwork and interactive learning app in Microsoft O365. Students receive their ryi.org email addresses and can participate in the learning activities via Teams. All students have access to the course materials, which include the PDF textbook, videos, homework assignments, and digital learning materials.

COURSE STRUCTURE OF THE ON-CAMPUS CLASSES (OC):

- Two 90-minute classes per week
- One 60-minute traditional class per week
- Prerecorded material: about 30 minutes of video grammar lectures per week (to be watched individually)
- Homework assignments (required)
- Weekly quiz assignments on grammar and vocabulary

The master classes focus on the written language. Simultaneously, the traditional class aims to develop the ability to read Tibetan fluently, emphasizing the pronunciation of new vocabulary (and providing additional grammar review where necessary). However, a general knowledge of the Tibetan Alphabet, i.e., the ability to read/spell aloud in Tibetan, is a prerequisite for this class. During the live master classes, the instructor will review the material covered in previous sessions, offering additional insights and posing questions. This allows students to apply their newly acquired knowledge of Tibetan grammar and vocabulary, seek clarification on any unclear material, or ask other Tibetan language-related questions. The traditional class segment includes indigenous approaches to learning classical Tibetan, focusing on spelling aloud, reading/writing, and mastering Tibetan terminology.

A note about the lessons: The lectures are intended to supplement a careful study of your textbook, not replace it. It is advisable to read the required pages of your textbook before watching the videos for each lesson. Additionally, you may want to revisit the textbook after watching the lecture to clarify any points further. If you still have questions about the lecture content, please feel free to ask during our live classes. We are using an updated textbook version this semester, so some page numbers mentioned in the lectures may not correspond to our updated book. However, all page numbers of the grammar sections in the reader are listed in the extended syllabus.
Online Section:
This course introduces students to basic classical Tibetan vocabulary and grammar, with emphasis on first familiarizing students with basic grammatical principles and then facilitating proficiency in them through practical application. The course covers the principal topics of classical Tibetan grammar using digital grammar handouts, as well as short textual passages from Tibetan Buddhist literature. The teaching method of the online classes (OL) involves a blend of prerecorded lectures and live classes, which include Q&A and group discussions. In addition to three weekly hours of master classes held by an international instructor, there will be one weekly hour of a traditional class that will be led by an instructor who is Tibetan speaking and familiar with indigenous Tibetan grammar. After completing this course, students will start to be able to read and understand basic classical Tibetan texts with the aid of a dictionary.

All class activities take place based in “Teams”, which is the app for teamwork and interactive learning in Microsoft O365. Students receive their own ryi.org email addresses and are authorized to participate in the learning activities via Teams. All students have access to the course materials, which include the PDF textbook, videos, homework assignments, and digital learning materials. There will be live-streamed review sessions each week, available to students at a time suitable for their time zone. These live-streamed sessions give students a chance to ask the teachers questions, clarify difficult points, and hear the questions that other students ask.

COURSE STRUCTURE OF THE ONLINE CLASSES (OL):

Two 90-minutes live classes per week

One 60-minutes traditonal class per week

Pre-recorded material: about 30 minutes of video grammar lectures per week (to be watched individually)

Homework assignments (required)

Weekly quiz assignments on grammar and vocabulary (take home)

The master classes focus on the written language, while the ability to fluently read in Tibetan is developed in the traditional class, putting an emphasis on the pronunciation of new vocabulary (and additional grammar review where necessary). Nevertheless, general knowledge of the Tibetan Alphabet, i.e. knowing how to read / spell out loud in Tibetan is a prerequisite for this class. During the live master classes the instructor will review the material covered in previous days, sharing extra insights into the material, while also taking questions. This an opportunity for students to apply their newly acquired knowledge of Tibetan grammar and vocabulary, to ask questions on any material that was unclear or get answers on other Tibetan language related questions. The traditional class portion includes indigenous approaches to learning the classical Tibetan language, focusing on spelling aloud, reading/writing and learning the Tibetan terminology.
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, please do not hesitate to ask during our live 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. However, the page numbers of the grammar sections in the reader are all listed in the long syllabus.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will
- know the basic classical grammar and some basic vocabulary
- have deepened their knowledge through class practice and discussion, as well as homework assignments from the reader
- be able to translate simple Tibetan sentences and texts; discuss grammar, context-related translations, and alternative meanings of terms within different contexts
- begin to use digital dictionaries.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How do I succeed in the course?</th>
<th>All homework assignments must be submitted on the day they are due, and all quizzes must be written on the day they are given. Weekly quizzes will test the memorization of the weekly vocabulary lists (25-50 words) and the grammar and structures covered in class that week. Spelling counts!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>Weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Active class participation and homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Traditional Part</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Weekly quizzes</td>
<td>15% written assignment (take-home, open book, including grammar analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Midterm exam</td>
<td>15% written assignment (take-home, open book, including grammar analysis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Final Assessment</td>
<td>50% written test of vocabulary and grammar (including grammar analysis), 2 hours during class, open book</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>