Kathmandu University’s Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>TLAN 103</th>
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<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Colloquial Tibetan I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester, Year</td>
<td>Fall 2024</td>
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**Schedule: class day & time**
- **On-Campus section**
  - Master class - Monday and Wednesday 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm
  - ALI class - Tuesday, Thursday 3:15pm to 4:15pm
  - Boost class - Friday 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm
- **Online section:**
  - Master class - Monday and Wednesday 7:45 pm to 8:45 pm
  - ALI class - Tuesday, Thursday 6:30pm to 7:30pm
  - Boost class - Thursday 7:45 pm to 8:45 pm

Note: all times in NPT

**Required text(s)**
- Oertle, Franziska. *The Heart of the Tibetan Language Vol.1.* (Textbook and Exercise Book). These are available in paperback for purchase at the RYI office, on Amazon and at some local bookstores in the US. A digital version is available for download on Franziska’s website: [http://franziska.in/#portfoliop](http://franziska.in/#portfoliop) as well as at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives website.
- Weekly grammar handouts and vocabulary lists based on the book will be given to students as digital files.

**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 online Tibetan alphabet class team and/or classes during orientation if you are not already familiar with reading and pronouncing Tibetan syllables and letters. Digital class materials and video lectures for learning the alphabet will be available in the Orientation team.

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. There are instructions for installing Tibetan software on your PC, setting up your Mac for Typing Tibetan and learning the Wylie input method provided in the Orientation Team, which will help you with preparing your computer to work with Tibetan fonts.

Although assignments for this class are generally to be submitted in digital form, it is strongly recommended that all students learn and practice writing by hand in Tibetan block script (དབུ་ཅན་, “[letters] having heads”). Since Tibetan handwriting is an integral part of our classroom activities on campus, it is mandatory for those students who join our on-campus class.

### Course Description

This course is for students with no prior study of spoken Tibetan and introduces students to basic colloquial Tibetan vocabulary and grammar, with an emphasis on the students’ gaining oral proficiency in colloquial language. During the fall semester students will gain fluency in reading the Tibetan script and we will cover the basic grammar of spoken Tibetan complemented with a wide selection of useful colloquial vocabulary. Through the classes taught by the instructors, combined with conversation training led by Tibetan Assistant Language Instructors (ALIs), students will achieve the necessary skills to carry on a simple conversation in modern Tibetan. During the boost classes guided by ALIs, students will get the opportunity to practice the grammar and vocabulary that they learned in class with special methods such as drill, dramatic dialogs, games etc.

**The online class (OL)** involves digital class materials (grammar books and handouts, vocabulary lists, flashcards and other learning aids), prerecorded course materials (such as vocabulary audio files and grammar lectures), interactive video classes with the instructors and individual conversation training with Assistant Language Instructors (ALIs). Gradually, as the semester progresses, the emphasis increasingly moves towards active conversation training.

**The on-campus class (OC)** consists of a regular on-campus class with one of the instructors joining online. On-campus class will make use of the same digital materials as the online classes, including prerecorded grammar video lectures. Hard copies of the materials used in class will also be available.

The live-streamed sessions will be available to students at a time suitable for their time zone. All digital class activities will take place based on “Teams”, which is the app in Microsoft Office 365 designed for teamwork and interactive learning. Students enrolled in this class will receive their own ryi.org email address and be authorized to participate in all learning activities via Teams.

### Course Structure:
- Two one-hour master classes per week
- Two one-hour ALI classes per week
• One one-hour boost class per week
• Pre-recorded material: altogether 30 to 45 minutes of video grammar lectures per week (to be watched individually prior to the live classes)
• Homework assignments (required), vocabulary flashcards, flashcards for individual practice

Please sign up for the master classes (MC), ALI classes and boost classes (BC) individually.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the semester, students will be able to

• understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type, such as: „How are you?“ „I am from …“ etc. This also refers to frequently used Tibetan expressions in class.
• introduce themselves and others, ask and answer questions about personal details such as where they live, people they know and things they have. This includes statements and questions with essential verbs, existential verbs and main verbs in the three tenses, as well as the imperative mode.
• understand and express sentences about school, landscapes and towns, eating and drinking, family, leisure activities, weather and shopping.
• tell the time and date, express numbers up to 1000 in Tibetan.
• Listening comprehension and speaking: interact with each other and the teachers/ALIs in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
• Reading comprehension and writing: read slowly with correct pronunciation and understand sentences with the grammar and vocabulary of the first semester. They should write their own sentences / translate sentences in Tibetan with correct spelling.

**Course Requirements**

How do I succeed in the course?

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<td>Students are required to memorize weekly vocabulary lists. This vocabulary is tested in weekly online quizzes and is utilized in class as well. Memorization is a very important component for learning a new language, therefore the instructors emphasize this aspect of the class.</td>
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<td>Weekly quizzes will test the memorization of vocabulary lists handed out each week (25-50 words) and will focus primarily on the grammatical structures covered in class that week but may also include the ones from previous lessons.</td>
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<td>A considerable amount of preparation, memorization, and completion of written assignments is expected from the student to ensure progress.</td>
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<td>All homework assignments must be submitted on the day they are due, and all quizzes must be written on the day they are given. Students must inform the course instructor if they will miss a quiz or be unable to turn in a homework assignment due to illness. In this case, the quiz or assignment may be made up.</td>
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Homework assignments or quizzes missed for any other reason may not be made up and the student will receive a grade of 0 for that particular assignment or quiz.

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<th>Assessments</th>
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<td>1. Active class participation and weekly homework assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Weekly quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>3. Midterm Test</td>
<td>20% (written test of vocabulary and grammar, will be written during one 60-minutes class)</td>
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<td>4. Final Assessment</td>
<td>50% (written test (2 hours) and an individual oral examination (15 minutes))</td>
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