Course Code: TSTD 701
Course Title: Buddhist Philosophical Traditions I
Semester, Year: Fall 2024
Schedule: TBA
Required text(s)
Optional Readings

Course Description

This course involves in-depth study of an Indian Buddhist text supported by Indian and Tibetan commentaries as well as oral explanation by a member of CBS's monastic faculty (a shedra-trained khenpo or loppon). In this way the students are introduced to a combination of literary exegetical and standard modern colloquial forms of spoken Tibetan. This provides a context-rich immersion environment for the development of student understanding of the combined literary and vernacular Tibetan speech patterns common to Tibetan Buddhist religious discourses.

The second component of this course involves reading, writing, translating, seminar-style discussions, and translation workshops with a member of the Buddhist Studies faculty ("academic supervisor"). At the beginning of the semester, students are assigned primary and/or secondary literature to read. They are also given a short passage from Tibetan that must be translated during the semester. Over the course of the semester, students will meet as a group with the academic supervisor three times, as described below.

During most semesters, students can choose from one of two untranslated Khenpo classes. In the Fall 2024, these options are


In either case, students enroll for TSTD 701. Students must inform the administration of which khenpo class they have chosen by the end of the first week of the semester.

Assessments

- Exams (mid-term and final) given by the Khenpo or Loppon: 50% of final grade.
- Academic component 50%
  - consisting of:
    - Participation in meetings with academic supervisor: 20%


- Written assignments for academic component: short reflection papers and translation: 15%
- Final translation: 15%

**Exams** given by the Khenpo or Loppon will be exclusively in Tibetan. The Khenpo or loppon may also assign homework, at their discretion.

**Work with Academic Supervisor** (participation, written assignments, and final translation): These will be scheduled during the first week of class. The first two of these will focus on the assigned reading; students will also write a short (3-4 page, 750-1000 word) paper summarizing and reflecting on the readings for each respective meeting. The third meeting is focused on the passage to be translated, and students will prepare partial drafts of the translation to workshop.