Kathmandu University
School of Arts

Bachelor of Arts

Buddhist Studies with Himalayan Language

Program Course Description

Kathmandu, Nepal

As approved by the School of Arts' Faculty Board on July 24, 2019
and to be implemented by Kathmandu University's Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute.
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Kathmandu University

Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute

Bachelor of Arts
in
Buddhist Studies with Himalayan Language

Duration of Study

Four years (eight Fall/Spring semesters)
Semester I - first week of September to third week of December
Semester II - second week of January to fourth week of April
Summer Semester - second week of June to second week of August

Admission

Candidates with second division in any Intermediate or equivalent degree (Higher Secondary School) are eligible to apply for the program.

Eligible candidates may apply to Kathmandu University Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, by filling in the appropriate online application forms. (www.ryi.org)

Venue

The program is administered by Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Boudhanath, Kathmandu.

Program of Study

Candidates for the BA degree must earn a total of 120 credit units from the following categories.[1]

1. A minimum of 36 credits must be in the area of Specialized Textual Studies.

   Specialized Textual Studies:

   - Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I-II: 6 credits each (*Required*)
   - Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics III-VI: 3 credits each
   - Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I-VI: 6 credits each
   - Buddhist Philosophical Discourse: I-IV: 3 credits each
   - Buddhist Studies Summer Program: I-III: 6 credits each

2. A minimum of 24 credits must be in the combined areas of Critical Studies in Buddhist Doctrine and Historical and Cultural Studies in Religion.

   Critical Studies in Buddhist Doctrine:

   - Fundamentals of Buddhist Philosophy: 3 credits (*Required*)
   - Buddhist Scripture: 3 credits
   - Buddhist Meditation Practices: 3 credits
   - Methodology of Buddhist Studies: 3 credits (*Required*)
   - Buddhist Ethics: 3 credits
   - Yogācāra Thought: 3 credits
   - Madhyamaka Thought: 3 credits
   - Buddhist Philosophy in the Indian Philosophical Context: 3 credits
   - Buddha Nature Thought: 3 credits
   - Buddhist Epistemology: 3 credits

[1] 15 credit hours per semester is considered a full-time workload and will result in graduation after eight semesters.

Historical and Cultural Studies in Religion:

- Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture I: 3 credits (Required)
- Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture II: 3 credits (Required)
- Anthropological Study of Nepalese Religions: 3 credits
- Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism: 3 credits
- Tibetan Culture in Tibet and Nepal: 3 credits
- Buddhism in the Kathmandu Valley: 3 credits
- Buddhism and Development: 3 credits
- Buddhism and Psychology: 3 credits
- Buddhism and Science: 3 credits
- Buddhist Art: 3 credits
- Buddhist Ritual: 3 credits
- Independent Research Project: 3 credits
- Special Topics in Buddhist Studies: 3 credits
- Optional BA Dissertation: 12 credits

3. A minimum of 36 credits must be in the area of Himalayan Language.

Himalayan Language:

- Nepali I: 3 credits (Required)
- Nepali II - VI: 3 credits each
- Sanskrit I-VI: 3 credits each
- Classical Tibetan I-IV: 3 credits each
- Classical Tibetan Translation Project I-II: 3 credits each
- Advanced Classical Tibetan Seminar I-II: 3 credits each
- Colloquial Tibetan I-VI: 3 credits each
- Academic English and Advanced Study Methods: 6 credits
- Academic English I - II: 3 credits each
- Buddhist Literary Chinese I-VI: 3 credits each
- Pāli I-IV: 3 credits each
- Nepal Bhasa I-IV: 3 credits each

An additional 24 credits are required, and may be taken from any category.

Note: Not all courses are offered each semester, or each academic year. Summer courses and online courses may also be taken for credit.

Course Descriptions

Specialized Textual Studies

TSTD 101 Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics (*Required Course*) 6 Cr.

TSTD 102 Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics II(*Required Course*) 6 Cr.

These courses introduce students to the traditional study of Buddhist scripture and are taught by Khenpos and Lopons and translated into English. They offer students the opportunity to engage with Buddhist philosophical literature as presented in the traditions of classical scholarship and introduce students to key aspects of Buddhist view, meditation and conduct. Students become familiar with the central concepts and terminology of classical Buddhist philosophy and the presentations that characterize the systems of the Śrāvakayāna and the Mahāyāna, with emphasis on the Mahāyāna. By reading and analyzing primary literary sources, students are introduced to the structure of classical Buddhist scripture in its philosophical, literary and hermeneutical aspects.

Prerequisites: For TSTD 101, None. For TSTD 102, TSTD 101 or permission of the instructor.

TSTD 103 Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics III 3 Cr.

TSTD 203 Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics IV 3 Cr.

TSTD 303 Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics V 3 Cr.

TSTD 403 Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics VI 3 Cr.

These courses introduce students to the traditional study of Buddhist scripture and are taught by Khenpos and Lopons and translated into English. They offer students the opportunity to engage with Buddhist philosophical literature as presented in the traditions of classical scholarship, and introduce students to key aspects of Buddhist view, meditation and conduct. Students become familiar with the central concepts and terminology of classical Buddhist philosophy and the presentations characterizing the systems of the Śrāvakayāna and the Mahāyāna, with emphasis on the Mahāyāna. By reading and analyzing primary literary sources, students are introduced to the struc-

ture of classical Buddhist scripture in its philosophical, literary and hermeneutical aspects.

Prerequisites: For TSTD 103, None. For TSTD 203, 303 and 403, TSTD 102 or 103 or permission of the instructor.

TSTD 201 Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I 6 Cr.
TSTD 202 Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics II 6 Cr.
TSTD 301 Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics III 6 Cr.
TSTD 302 Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics IV 6 Cr.
TSTD 401 Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics V 6 Cr.
TSTD 402 Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics VI 6 Cr.

This is a series of specialized courses in Buddhist philosophy and scriptural interpretation taught by Khenpos and Lopons and translated into English. The aim of this series is to deepen the knowledge of complex Buddhist philosophical topics and their relations to the broader field of Buddhist studies. Students are able to deepen the understanding developed in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I & II and apply more nuanced analyses of the primary source texts studied. Course readings are primarily classical Indian treatises and their Indo-Tibetan commentaries in areas such as Abhidharma, Madhyamaka, and Yogācāra thought.

Prerequisite: For TSTD 201, TSTD 102: Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics II. For TSTD 201, 301, and 401, the previous course in the series. When TSTD 202, 302, and 402 are not independent texts, Prerequisites are TSTD 201, 301, or 402, respectively, or permission of the instructor.

TSTD 305 Buddhist Philosophical Discourse I 3 Cr.

This course develops the students' ability to listen to and participate in philosophical discussions in a traditional Tibetan format. The course is taught in Tibetan by a Khenpo or Lopon. The objective of the course is for the students to gain proficiency in understanding philosophical ideas as taught in the classical Tibetan idiom, and to answer questions, engage in philosophical discussions, and write exams in that idiom.

Prerequisites: TSTD 102: Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics II, TLAN 202: Classical Tibetan IV, and TLAN 204, Colloquial Tibetan IV, or

permission of the instructor.

TSTD 306 Buddhist Philosophical Discourse II 3 Cr.

This course is a continuation of TSTD 305, emphasizing the continued practical application of the classical Tibetan idiom to philosophical instruction and discourse.

Prerequisites: TSTD 305: Buddhist Philosophical Discourse I, or, if TSTD 306 is an independent text, the prerequisites for TSTD 305 apply.

TSTD 405 Buddhist Philosophical Discourse III 3 Cr.

The aim of this course is to further develop the capacity for philosophical understanding and analysis in Tibetan and gain further familiarity with the articulation of logical reasoning in Tibetan. Building on the abilities acquired in Buddhist Philosophical Discourse I and II, students examine central issues raised in traditional Tibetan Buddhist philosophical studies.

Prerequisites: TSTD 306: Buddhist Philosophical Discourse II.

TSTD 406 Buddhist Philosophical Discourse IV 3 Cr.

This course is a continuation of TSTD 405, emphasizing the further development of the capacity for philosophical understanding and analysis in Tibetan.

Prerequisites: TSTD 405, or, if TSTD 406 is an independent text, TSTD 306: Buddhist Philosophical Discourse II.

Critical Studies in Buddhist Doctrine

BSTD 203 Fundamentals of Buddhist Philosophy (*Required Course*) 3 Cr.

This course introduces students to the fundamental categories, doctrines and problems of Buddhist philosophy as presented in the early canon, paracanonical literature and the Abhidharma, and to the modern academic study of Buddhist philosophy. Central topics include: the doctrines of not-self, dependent origination, karma and rebirth, ethics, meditation, and dharma theory. The course also emphasizes the further development of skills in reading and assessing primary and secondary sources and writing analytic essays.

Prerequisites: A prior course in Buddhism or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 204 Buddhist Scripture **3 Cr.**

This course examines the role of Buddhist scripture in the development of the Buddhist tradition. Students become familiar with the canonical literature of the three vehicles through reading early suttas and excerpts from Mahāyāna sūtras and Vajrayāna tantras. Additional material such as the *avadānas* and the *dohās* may be examined, as well as texts from several commentarial traditions. The role of scripture in the practice of religion is examined, with an eye toward the relationship between texts and ritual practice. During this course students will gain an understanding of the development of various scriptural traditions in Buddhism and the role that scriptures have played in the development of the tradition through time and across cultures.

Prerequisites: BSTD 203 or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 207 Buddhist Meditation Practices **3 Cr.**

This course introduces students to important historical, philosophical, and religious aspects of Buddhist ritual and meditation. Through a theoretical as well as an experiential approach, the rituals and meditations of Buddhist cultures as contained in both original literature and oral traditions are studied. For students to assimilate knowledge of the oral traditions central to Buddhism, active participation in the practical application of meditation and/or rituals is emphasized. Students study texts associated with meditation, and critically investigate their meaning through assignments, class work and discussions. In addition, they gain familiarity with the experience of meditation by taking part in regular guided meditation sessions in which they experience the different types of cultivation practices. Although the students do not experience all the types of meditation practices studied, they have the opportunity to experience basic practices belonging to each model.

Prerequisites: BSTD 101: Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture I or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 208 Methodology of Buddhist Studies (*Required Course*) **3 Cr.**

The aim of this course is to develop a critical appreciation of the methodological tools used in the study of Buddhism in modern academic and traditional

contexts. Particular emphasis is placed on analyzing the assumptions, claims, and practical implications of different methodologies. This course provides an opportunity for students to critically reflect upon their own education and engage in debates currently shaping the future of the study of Buddhism around the world.

Prerequisites: BSTD 102: Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture II or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 209 Buddhist Ethics **3 Cr.**

This course examines the relevance of the theory and practice of Buddhist ethics for today's world. After an introduction to the historical, cultural and doctrinal foundations of Buddhist ethics, students investigate various applications of Buddhist ethics to perennial and particularly modern forms of suffering as articulated by contemporary Buddhist teachers and scholars. Special emphasis is placed on the question of how particular disciplines and practices informed by Buddhist ethical theory may be of benefit to non-Buddhists or in non-Buddhist institutional or cultural contexts.

Prerequisites: None.

BSTD 303 Yogācāra Thought **3 Cr.**

This course aims to build upon students' previous acquaintance with Mahāyāna Buddhism by introducing them to recent scholarship on Yogācāra and through continuing study of foundational Yogācāra texts (*sūtra*, *śāstra* and commentary). Topics include: theories of the eight consciousnesses, three natures, emptiness, and the path; continuities and discontinuities between Yogācāra, Abhidharma and Madhyamaka; and scholarly debates about the relationship between theory and praxis in Yogācāra. Emphasis is placed upon helping students read and interpret Buddhist *sūtra and śāstra* with the aid of traditional written commentaries and to gain greater familiarity with the various styles and approaches of the modern academic study of Buddhist doctrine and philosophy.

Prerequisites: BSTD 203: Fundamentals of Buddhist Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 304 Madhyamaka Thought 3 Cr.

This course aims to build upon students' previous acquaintance with Mahāyāna Buddhism by introducing them to recent scholarship on Madhyamaka and through continuing study of foundational Madhyamaka texts (*sūtra, śāstra* and commentary). Topics include: emptiness, two truths, Madhyamaka dialectics, relationship of Madhyamaka to other Indian Buddhist schools, and Tibetan views on the distinction between *Svātantrika* and *Prāsangika* Madhyamaka. Emphasis is placed upon helping students learn to read and interpret Buddhist *sūtra and śāstra* with the aid of traditional written commentaries and to gain greater familiarity with the various styles and approaches of the modern academic study of Buddhist doctrine and philosophy.

Prerequisites: BSTD 203: Fundamentals of Buddhist Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 308 Buddhist Philosophy in the Indian Philosophical Context 3 Cr.

This course aims to provide students with a better understanding of the history of ideas and specific debates that shaped Buddhist thought in India. The first part of the course provides an overview of the Indian philosophical landscape, with a focus on the mutual influence and dialogue between Buddhist and non-Buddhist Indian schools (the six Vedic schools as well as Jainism and Cārvāka philosophy). The latter part of the course focuses on a sustained analysis of a particular dialogue or debate between Buddhist and non-Buddhist schools, such as the debates over the nature of language, existence of a creator God, epistemology, valid reasoning, or the relationship between mind and matter.

Prerequisites: BSTD 203: Fundamentals of Buddhist Philosophy or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 403 Buddha Nature Thought 3 Cr.

This course introduces the various ways that Buddha nature, or Tathāgatagarbha, is understood and expressed within the various Buddhist traditions. The ways that Tathāgatagarbha is envisioned (as a seed, as the fully perfected Buddha nature hidden by stains, as emptiness, and so forth) have a profound effect on the doctrine and contemplative practices of the various traditions. The relationship between Buddha nature thought and

other currents of Buddhist thought, such as Yogācāra, Madhyamaka and tantra is considered. The course explores these issues through readings of sūtra, śastra, and the secondary literature.

Prerequisites: BSTD 303: Yogācāra Thought or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 404 Buddhist Epistemology 3 Cr.

This course aims to introduce students to Buddhist epistemology, beginning with its emergence in the greater Indian philosophical context and its development in dialogue with non-Buddhist schools, and culminating with its impact on Tibetan Buddhism. Topics studied include: *pramāna* ("instrument of knowledge") theory, perception (sensory and yogic), inference, *apoha* ("exclusion" theory of meaning), realism and anti-realism, and the compatibility of Buddhist epistemology with Madhyamaka. Particular emphasis is placed upon understanding the relationship between Buddhist soteriology and epistemology.

Prerequisite: BSTD 203 and either BSTD 303, 304 or 308, or permission of the instructor.

Historical and Cultural Studies in Religion

BSTD 101 Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture I (*Required Course*) 3 Cr.

This course surveys the development of Buddhism in South and SE Asia. Through a primarily historical lens, students become familiar with the context within which Buddhism arose, and study critically the various de-velopments and transformations of Buddhist institutions, doctrines and practices through the tradition's evolution in its native land. This course also looks at the results of the migration of Buddhism into other areas of South East Asia. Together with BSTD 102, students focus on developing essential academic skills: 1) how to read and critically assess different kinds of sources, 2) how to write for different kinds of assignments (summaries, reflections, analytic essays and longer papers), 3) how to frame a research project, build a bibliography, and properly cite sources, and 4) how to manage time and study effectively.

Prerequisites: None.

BSTD 102 Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture II (*Required Course*) 3 Cr.

This course examines the historical development of Buddhism in Central

Asia, East Asia, and the Tibetan cultural region up to the present day, with an emphasis on investigating the ways in which Buddhism transformed and has been transformed by these distinct cultural, social and geographical contexts. This course also focuses on the further development of the essential academic skills acquired in BSTD 101, culminating with a research paper.

Prerequisites: BSTD 101: Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture I or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 205 Anthropological Study of Nepalese Religion 3 Cr.

An investigation of the rich religious traditions of Nepal, with emphasis on the Kathmandu Valley. The course begins with an overview of Hinduism, with its diversity of symbols, beliefs and practices. The course identifies unifying elements, especially those relevant to Buddhism. The second part of the course focuses on Buddhism in Nepal, especially the unique form practiced by Newars, the indigenous people of the Kathmandu Valley, and the sole remnant of Sanskrit-based South Asian Mahāyāna Buddhism. On-site lectures at places of particular historical and cultural significance offer an experiential dimension to this survey of Nepalese religion.

Prerequisites: None.

BSTD 206 Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism 3 Cr.

This course provides an introduction to the history, doctrines, practices, and institutions of Buddhism as practiced in Tibet and related Himalayan regions. Students gain familiarity with basic features of the Tibetan tradition and with some of the main theoretical issues that have been raised in relation to that topic. Topics may also include Tibetan Buddhist art, literature, practices and customs, and are approached through various theoretical perspectives such as history, anthropology, ritual studies, literature and religious studies.

Prerequisites: BSTD 101: Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture I or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 210 Tibetan Culture in Tibet and Nepal 3 Cr.

This course considers Tibetan culture from an ethnographic perspective, exploring the topic within Nepalese ethnic communities that are culturally

continuous with Tibet, and in the refugee community. Music, dance, art, religion, food and social structure are considered along with issues such as adaptation, migration, globalization and identity. The course incorporates a broad theoretical and historical perspective as well as using field trips and encounters with members of the community to introduce and explain relevant issues.

Prerequisites: None.

BSTD 211 Buddhism in the Kathmandu Valley 3 Cr.

This course looks at Buddhism in Kathmandu Valley, especially as practiced by its indigenous inhabitants, the Newars. As the sole remnant of traditional South Asian Mahāyāna in a Sanskrit idiom, the Newar tradition offers important insights into the development of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. The course investigates the rich fabric of Newar culture and religious life, including ritual and devotional practices, its hereditary sangha, renowned artistic tradition, and the interplay of Buddhism and Hinduism in the valley.

Prerequisites: None.

BSTD 307 Buddhism and Development 3 Cr.

This course considers "development" as it has been historically practiced in developing countries, the philosophy behind it, and recent critiques. It examines the juxtaposition of the Buddhist emphasis on internal development with the post-1950's emphasis on economic and social development. Classroom lectures introduce the theory of development studies and its relation to Buddhist notions of internal development, with emphasis put on group discussion during class time. In addition to class meetings, students interview representatives of existing service organizations to understand their goals and development approaches.

Prerequisites: None.

BSTD 310 Course Supplement: Service Learning 3 Cr.

Service learning is designed to complement students' formal study of a subject with related service in the community, as well as critical reflection on the experience. The practical application, in a real-life social context, of

principles and practices learned in the classroom can be an opportunity for profound experiential learning. The combination of academic study and social engagement benefits both society and the student, highlights the relevance of a particular subject matter, and fosters a sense of civic responsibility. When appropriate, certain courses may include a service learning component.

Prerequisites: None.

BSTD 311 Buddhism and Psychology **3 Cr.**

This course examines classical Buddhist theories of mind and mental cultivation, the significant impact of these theories and practices on modern psychology and neuroscience, and the ways in which Buddhism and modern thinking about the mind and brain are being transformed through dialogue with each other. Topics to be investigated may include: mindfulness-based stress reduction and cognitive theory; Buddhist meditation and neuroplasticity; Buddhist and modern scientific conceptions of the mind-body connection; how Buddhist meditative techniques are transformed when they are presented outside of traditional ethical, soteriological, and ritual contexts; and differences between classical and modern theories and language as they pertain to mind and health.

Prerequisites: A prior course in Buddhism or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 312 Buddhism and Science **3 Cr.**

This course consists of a critical investigation of the encounter between Buddhism and science. The main topics may include the study of the ways in which these two traditions have interacted, theoretical issues arising from that encounter, the comparison and analysis of their respective world views, the way science is approached and presented by Buddhism, and contemporary discussions of the intersection between these two traditions.

Prerequisites: A prior course in Buddhism or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 405 Buddhist Art **3 Cr.**

This course investigates the art and architecture of the Buddhist world, with special attention to the Himalayan region. It investigates how representa-

tions of Buddhist belief and practice developed in a wide variety of historical and cultural contexts, as Buddhism spread through Asia. Particular emphasis is given to traditions found in Nepal and Tibet. Participants investigate a topic of special interest at greater depth that will form the basis for a final project and evaluation.

Prerequisites: BSTD 102: Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture II or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 406 Buddhist Ritual 3 Cr.

This course provides a study of the various rituals found within the Buddhist traditions. Students explore ritual theory, symbol systems, historical development of ritual, and the role of ritual in religious life. They become familiar with the most important Buddhist rites and rituals and the ways they are related to other aspects of Buddhism. The course surveys the approaches that the discipline of ritual studies provides, to develop a better understanding of Buddhist rituals themselves and the theoretical issues that arise in relation to the study of Buddhist ritual.

Prerequisites: BSTD 102: Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture II or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 409 Independent Research Project 3 Cr.

The Independent Research Project offers students an opportunity to explore in depth a subject of special interest, particularly one not offered in the regular curriculum. The focus of the research project should be a specific topic rather than general issues in Buddhist Studies. Research projects are supervised by faculty members or other experts in the field of interest. Advisors assist in planning projects, but responsibility for the design and the execution of the project lies with the student. A written report of approximately 4,000 words is expected upon completion of the project.

BSTD 410-415 Special Topics in Buddhist Studies 3 Cr.

This course is offered from time to time as appropriate and addresses topics not regularly covered in the curriculum.

Prerequisites: BSTD 102: Buddhist Traditions: History and Culture II or permission of the instructor.

BSTD 416 BA Dissertation **12 Cr.**

The Bachelor of Arts dissertation is a means for a student to demonstrate the capacity to undertake and report on significant academic research. The topic, which is chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor, should relate directly to the field of Buddhist Studies, and include a well-articulated thesis. The dissertation should give evidence of a solid knowledge of methodological tools, and an ability to utilize primary sources in their original languages or in translation.

Prerequisites: 105 credits towards the Bachelor of Arts degree.
Course Requirement: A dissertation of approximately 10,000 words.

Himalayan Languages

NLAN 101 Nepali I (*Required Course*) **3 Cr.**

This course introduces students to basic patterns of spoken and written Nepali centering on various situational examples. Students learn the *Devanāgarī* script and basic sentence structure and begin building a vocabulary of colloquial words and phrases. Basic grammatical concepts of spoken Nepali are introduced and illustrated. Emphasis is placed on active learning, with students using techniques such as role-playing in order to develop confidence in speaking. During classes students are given the opportunity to practice their skills privately or in small groups with a native Nepali speaker.

Prerequisites: None.

NLAN 102 Nepali II **3 Cr.**

Building on Nepali I, this course aims to develop students' ability to communicate in spoken and written Nepali. More complicated grammatical structures and further vocabulary are introduced and students engage actively in the classroom to further develop their skills in basic communication. As in Nepali I, students have access to native Nepali speakers with whom to practice conversation skills.

Prerequisites: NLAN 101: Nepali I or permission of the instructor.

NLAN 201 Nepali III **3 Cr.**

This course builds on the basic understanding of Nepali grammar and vocabulary acquired in Nepali I and II. Students develop facility with more complex sentence structures and gain a more extensive vocabulary. After a review of the basic Nepali grammatical structures learned previously, this course covers increasingly more complex sentence structures while emphasizing practical language use and application so that students become more and more comfortable and fluent with their spoken Nepali. During classes students are given the opportunity to practice their skills privately or in small groups with a native Nepali speaker.

Prerequisites: NLAN 102: Nepali II or permission of the instructor.

NLAN 202 Nepali IV **3 Cr.**

Building on Nepali III, this course continues with increasingly more complex and nuanced sentence structures and vocabulary usage, while emphasizing practical language use and application so that students become more and more fluent with their spoken Nepali. The course also focuses on written Nepali, so that students are able to read everyday writing such as that found in the daily newspaper. Students continue to engage actively in the classroom to further develop their language skills. As in Nepali III, students have access to native Nepali speakers with whom to practice conversation skills.

Prerequisites: NLAN 201: Nepali III or permission of the instructor.

NLAN 301 Nepali V **3 Cr.**

This course focuses on reinforcing concepts learned in Nepali III and IV and putting them into practice. Students will also learn and practice more formal ways of speaking and understanding the Nepali language, and study the attendant grammatical structures and vocabulary needed for more formal speech. In addition, the course will emphasize the use of the Nepali language in the media, so that students learn the more complex syntax, grammatical structures and vocabulary found and heard in leading Nepali news media.

Prerequisites: NLAN 202: Nepali IV or permission of the instructor.

NLAN 302 Nepali VI **3 Cr.**

This course builds on the more complex grammar and structures learned in

Nepali V. Students discuss current events in the news, using new structures and vocabulary to express their own views. The course will focus on enhancing students' ability to speak more sophisticated Nepali using a wider range of vocabulary. The course also focuses on introducing students to literary Nepali, including its conventions, tropes, structures and relevant vocabulary.
Prerequisites: NLAN 301: Nepali V or permission of the instructor.

SLAN 101 Sanskrit I **3 Cr.**

This course covers the *Devanāgarī* script and the rules of euphonic combination (*sandhi*). Students are introduced to the general principles of Sanskrit word construction, syntax, and grammar. Although this course focuses upon understanding and memorization of the rules of declension and conjugation, students also begin building a Sanskrit vocabulary of Buddhist terminology.
Prerequisites: None.

SLAN 102 Sanskrit II **3 Cr.**

This course continues the methods of Sanskrit I, building a solid structural knowledge of Sanskrit word construction, syntax and grammar. Increasing their vocabulary of Sanskrit philosophical terminology in the Buddhist context, students relate their grammar studies to examples of original Sanskrit philosophical discourse.
Prerequisites: SLAN 101: Sanskrit I or permission of the instructor.

SLAN 201 Sanskrit III **3 Cr.**
SLAN 202 Sanskrit IV **3 Cr.**
SLAN 301 Sanskrit V **3 Cr.**
SLAN 302 Sanskrit VI **3 Cr.**

These courses focus on furthering the ability to read classical Sanskrit texts with an emphasis on Buddhist literature. In reading from a spectrum of literary genres such as that found in poetry, dramatic literature, epics, and philosophical discourse, students gain familiarity with the variety of style and grammar used in written Sanskrit. Through in-depth analysis of the grammatical systems employed in this literature, the courses increasingly consolidate the understanding of Sanskrit grammar gained in Sanskrit I and II.
Prerequisites: For SLAN 201, SLAN 102: Sanskrit II. For SLAN 202, 301

and 302, the previous course in the series or permission of the instructor is required.

TLAN 101 Classical Tibetan I **3 Cr.**

This class develops students' ability to read the Tibetan script and precisely analyze and understand Tibetan grammar. The course covers the principal topics of classical Tibetan grammar using handbook material as well as text passages from classical Tibetan Buddhist literature. Study of grammatical explanations from both Tibetan and Western traditions constitute the foundation for discussions in class where active student participation is of primary importance. Although the topic of grammar is central for this course, students are also introduced to the basic vocabulary of classical Tibetan philosophy.

Prerequisites: No course prerequisites exist, but familiarity with the Tibetan alphabet is assumed.

TLAN 102 Classical Tibetan II **3 Cr.**

This course focuses on applying the principles of Tibetan grammar learned in Classical Tibetan I and on building vocabulary and reading skills in the context of studying excerpts from original Tibetan texts. Students are introduced to text examples from a variety of Tibetan literary genres and time periods. Students are expected to contribute actively to the class by means of presentations and discussions of homework assignments.

Prerequisites: TLAN 101: Classical Tibetan I or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 201 Classical Tibetan III **3 Cr.**

This course focuses on the terminology of classical Buddhist philosophy as found in the literary genres of Abhidharma, Madhyamaka, and Yogācāra thought. Students further develop knowledge of grammar within scholastic literature and increase their ability to read texts from a variety of genres and time periods. In translating original text material from Tibetan to English, the methodology and principles of translating Buddhist texts begin to be discussed and analyzed.

Prerequisites: TLAN 102: Classical Tibetan II or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 202 Classical Tibetan IV **3 Cr.**

This course builds upon the foundation of the technical terminology of the subject matter begun in Classical Tibetan III, and continues with readings from a variety of genres of Buddhist philosophy. Discussion of the methodology and principles of translating Buddhist texts continues to build on previous discussions.

Prerequisites: TLAN 201: Classical Tibetan III or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 301 Classical Tibetan Translation Project I **3 Cr.**

This course aims to develop the ability to translate classical literary Tibetan into modern languages, primarily English. In weekly meetings selected readings on translation method and theory are introduced and discussed in relation to the field in general and to the area of Buddhist Studies in particular. Through translating a previously untranslated manuscript, issues of translation method and policy are introduced.

Prerequisites: TLAN 202: Classical Tibetan IV or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 302 Classical Tibetan Translation Project II **3 Cr.**

Building on the translation abilities acquired during Translation Project I, students work with text material in various genres and from different historical periods. Although the emphasis shifts towards practical translation training, issues of translation method and theory continue to be studied as a significant part of the course.

Prerequisite: TLAN 301: Translation Project I or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 401 Advanced Classical Tibetan Seminar I **3 Cr.**

This seminar emphasizes reading more difficult material from a wide variety of genres to expand the students' exposure to different literary styles. Students read texts on their own and summarize their meaning. They also translate sections of their readings and meet with the class and the instructor to present and discuss their work and their understanding.

Prerequisites: TLAN 302: Translation Project II or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 402 Advanced Classical Tibetan Seminar II 3 Cr.

This course is designed to deepen the study of treatises on poetry and grammar. It is said that when one studies the treatises on poetry, one becomes well-versed in composition and rhetoric and able to write poems that are elegant and captivating. Likewise, when one studies grammar, particularly the classic *Guide to Signs* (rtags kyi 'jug pa), counted as one of the minor aspects of Tibetan learning, one will become well-versed in comprehending the terms and their meaning. In addition to improving students' reading, this course is designed to improve students' writing skills in Tibetan.
Prerequisites: TLAN 302 Classical Tibetan VI

TLAN 103 Colloquial Tibetan I 3 Cr.

This course introduces students to the basics of spoken Tibetan. Basic sentence structure is taught and students begin building a vocabulary of colloquial words and phrases. Basic grammatical concepts unique to spoken Tibetan are introduced and illustrated. Emphasis is placed upon active learning, with students using techniques such as role-playing in order to develop confidence in speaking. In classes, students are given the opportunity to practice their skills privately or in small groups with a native Tibetan speaker.

Prerequisites: No course prerequisites exist, but familiarity with the Tibetan alphabet is assumed.

TLAN 104 Colloquial Tibetan II 3 Cr.

This course is a continuation of Colloquial Tibetan I. The aim of the course is for students to develop confidence in simple colloquial dialogue. More complicated sentence structures and further vocabulary are introduced and students engage in role-playing to further develop their skills in basic communication. As in Tibetan I, students have access to native Tibetan speakers with whom they can practice conversation.

Prerequisite: TLAN 103: Colloquial Tibetan I or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 203 Colloquial Tibetan III **3 Cr.**

The aim of this course is to bring students to the point where they are able to communicate comfortably in spoken Tibetan. A wide variety of techniques are employed to ensure that students are able to understand more complicated sentence structures and express complex ideas. The use of honorific language is explained in detail, and there is a thorough review of the grammar of spoken Tibetan.

Prerequisites: TLAN 104: Colloquial Tibetan II or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 204 Colloquial Tibetan IV **3 Cr.**

This course further develops the skills acquired in Colloquial Tibetan III, while preparing students for the more advanced classes in Tibetan language. Students are introduced to the various forms of spoken Tibetan, such as regional variants. In acquainting students with a wide range of topics related to popular Tibetan culture, they develop their vocabulary and general speaking proficiency. Homework includes translation and composition exercises, and preparing short talks and presentations.

Prerequisites: TLAN 203: Colloquial Tibetan III or permission from the instructor.

TLAN 303 Colloquial Tibetan V **3 Cr.**

The aim of this course is to refine the students' ability to communicate clearly and correctly in Colloquial Tibetan and to augment their understanding of the language by drawing links between colloquial usages and classical grammar. This course also further emphasizes the correct and natural use of honorific language. The first section of the semester is devoted to reviewing and refining knowledge from previous courses and to teaching a traditional presentation of the grammar of Classical Tibetan as it is related to the colloquial language. Students then read material that combines the usage of colloquial and classical language and discuss that material in class. Homework includes translation and composition exercises and preparation of short talks and presentations.

Prerequisites: TLAN 204: Colloquial Tibetan IV or permission from the in-

structor.

TLAN 304 Colloquial Tibetan VI **3 Cr.**

This course further develops skills learned in Colloquial Tibetan V and emphasizes students' ability to communicate clearly in both oral and written Tibetan. Emphasis is placed on speaking and writing fluently and naturally. In this semester students continue to read material that bridges the gap between classical and colloquial language, with added emphasis on Buddhist vocabulary. Class discussions and presentations in which students must demonstrate fluency and comfort with the spoken language comprise a large part of the class. Homework includes translation and composition exercises and preparation of talks and presentations. The class is conducted almost entirely in Tibetan.

Prerequisites: TLAN 303: Colloquial Tibetan V or permission from the instructor.

ELAN 101 Academic English and Advanced Study Methods **6 Cr.**

This course provides preparation for higher academic studies by offering an intensive program of English language writing and oral presentation skills, research methods, critical thinking and theory of knowledge. The English part of the program is aimed at enhancing students' knowledge and understanding of academic paper writing conventions, as well as improving oral presentation and debating skills. The research methods part of the course takes students through the process of developing a research strategy, gathering useful resources and being able to evaluate them critically, and presenting their results formally. The critical thinking and theory of knowledge parts of the course are designed to give students a solid foundation in argumentative reasoning, and offers opportunities for students to examine knowledge itself: how it is constructed or discovered, how it can be examined and evaluated.

Prerequisites: none

ELAN 102 Academic English I **3 Cr.**

This course provides students with the opportunity to improve their written and spoken English in the context of the academic study of Buddhism. Students will

further their studies in grammar, vocabulary, syntax, punctuation, and spelling. They will develop the ability to use spoken and written English with precision, clarity and grammatical correctness in order to communicate their ideas effectively to others in research papers, essays, response papers, and oral presentations. The course will focus on the use of appropriate grammatical forms (both in speaking and in writing), suitable punctuation and paragraphing to convey meaning clearly and with facility in writing, and developing the ability to communicate factual information clearly, concisely and adequately both orally and in writing.
Prerequisites: none

ELAN 103 Academic English II **3 Cr.**
This course builds on the skills learned in ELAN 102 and introduces students to the English language as used in the context of academic study in the humanities. The ability of students to fully understand what they listen to and read in the English medium as well as to express themselves clearly in speech and in writing are critical factors in the success of their degree study. This course provides the opportunity for students who are not native-English speakers to develop competence and confidence in academic reading, writing and speaking. It also seeks to develop students' ability to discuss and debate academic articles and books and to explore the assumptions and knowledge behind an author's theses and arguments. Through reading assignments, class discussion, oral presentations and writing assignments, students will enhance their ability to communicate in English for the purposes of academic study.
Prerequisites: ELAN 102: Academic English I

CLAN 101 Buddhist Literary Chinese I **3 Cr.**
This is an introductory course that provides students with the opportunity to learn the basics of Buddhist Literary Chinese in preparation for more in-depth study of Chinese Buddhist texts. The course assumes no knowledge of written or spoken Chinese. From the beginning of the course, students work with sentences from Buddhist texts, learning the characters, vocabulary, and grammar in context. Over the course of the semester the excerpts studied introduce new grammar and vocabulary and become progressively longer and more complex. Assessments include quizzes, exams and evaluation of class

participation.
Prerequisites: none.

CLAN 102 Buddhist Literary Chinese II **3 Cr.**

This course focuses on applying the principles of Buddhist Literary Chinese grammar learned in Buddhist Literary Chinese I, and on building vocabulary and reading skills in the context of studying excerpts from Chinese Buddhist texts. Students are introduced to examples of translated Indian texts from several Buddhist literary genres, including texts from the "three baskets" of teachings; Sutra, Abhidharma and Vinaya. Assessments include quizzes, exams and evaluation of class participation.
Prerequisites: CLAN 101: Buddhist Literary Chinese I

CLAN 201 Buddhist Literary Chinese III **3 Cr.**

This course continues with the study of translated Chinese Buddhist texts, and introduces the study of indigenous Chinese Buddhist texts. Students further develop knowledge of contextual interpretation and grammar and improve their ability to read texts on a variety of topics from different time periods. Students are expected to contribute actively to the class by means of presentations of their translations and discussions of homework assignments. Assessments include homework assignments, quizzes, exams, evaluation of class participation, and translations.
Prerequisites: CLAN 102: Buddhist Literary Chinese II

CLAN 202 Buddhist Literary Chinese IV **3 Cr.**

This course builds upon the foundation of the previous three courses in Buddhist Literary Chinese, and continues with readings from a variety of genres of Buddhist philosophy and practice, including short texts and excerpts from texts such as the Blue Cliff Records, and the Platform Sutra. Discussion of the methodology and principles for translating Buddhist Chinese texts is more formalized in this course, while building on previous discussions. Assessments include homework assignments, quizzes, exams, classroom participation, and translations.
Prerequisites: CLAN 201: Buddhist Literary Chinese III

CLAN 301 Buddhist Literary Chinese V **3 Cr.**

This is a reading course in Chinese Buddhist texts, providing a broader introduction to various genres of Buddhist literature in Literary Chinese, including translations of Sanskrit scriptures, Chinese commentaries, philosophical treatises, and hagiographies. It is intended for students with at least two years of study of Classical or Buddhist Literary Chinese. This course also looks at the resources available for scholarship in the field of Buddhist Literary Chinese and East Asian Buddhism, including online resources, dictionaries, and reference works, and continues the discussion of the methodology and principles for translating Buddhist Chinese texts is a more formalized way.

Prerequisites: CLAN 202: Buddhist Literary Chinese IV

CLAN 302 Buddhist Literary Chinese VI **3 Cr.**

This is a reading course in Chinese Buddhist texts that continues from the previous course, again using readings from various genres of Buddhist literature, including translations of Sanskrit scriptures, Chinese commentaries, philosophical treatises, and hagiographies. The course is designed to increase fluency and improve interpretation skills and continues to expose the students to the tools and methods of interpretation needed for the translation of Buddhist Literary Chinese texts into English.

Prerequisites: CLAN 301: Buddhist Literary Chinese V

PLAN 101 Pāli I **3 Cr.**

This is an introductory course that provides students with the opportunity to learn the basics of the Pāli language, in which a rich collection of the words of the Buddha and their Theravāda commentaries have been preserved. Students are introduced to the general principles of Pāli syntax and grammar, with a focus on understanding and memorizing the rules of declension and conjugation. Important Pāli doctrinal and philosophical terms will be explained as they appear in the exercises, which are selected from the canonical (nikāya) texts so that students can begin working with the texts directly. Assessments include homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and classroom participation.

Prerequisites: None.

PLAN 102 Pāli II **3 Cr.**

This course continues from Pāli I, and introduces more complex grammar structures such as compounds, sandhi rules (rules of euphonic combinations), nominal derivatives, and verbal derivatives. By the end of the semester, students will be able to identify the common grammatical features of the Pāli language and will be able to translate simple Pāli texts with the aid of a grammar and dictionary. As they begin reading simple texts, students begin to relate their language studies to the act of interpreting original Pāli philosophical and doctrinal discourses. Assessments include homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and classroom participation.

Prerequisites: PLAN 101: Pali I

PLAN 201 Pāli III **3 Cr.**

This course continues from Pāli II, building on the foundational grammar and vocabulary used in earlier courses to enable students to read increasingly longer and more complex texts, including texts from the "three baskets" of teachings; Sutta, Abhidhamma and Vinaya. Passages from commentarial works are also introduced to expose students to a greater variety of literary styles. Assessments include homework assignments, quizzes, exams, classroom participation, and translations.

Prerequisites: PLAN 102: Pali II

PLAN 202 Pāli IV **3 Cr.**

This is a reading course in Pāli Buddhist texts that provides a broader introduction to the various genres of Buddhist literature including Pāli commentaries, histories, Apadānas, and Jātakas. This course also looks at the resources available for scholarship in the field of Pāli literature and Theravāda Buddhism, including online resources, dictionaries, and reference works, and formalizes the discussion of the methodology and principles for translating Buddhist Pāli texts.

Prerequisites: PLAN 201: Pali III.

WLAN 101 Nepal Bhasa I **3 Cr.**

This course introduces students to basic patterns of spoken Newar, or Nepal Bhasha, the indigenous language of Kathmandu Valley and its environs. At the introductory level students use the Devanāgarī script to enhance

their understanding of Newar morphology. They will learn basic sentence structure and begin building a vocabulary of colloquial words and phrases. Basic grammatical concepts of spoken Newar are introduced and illustrated. Emphasis is placed on active learning, with students using techniques such as role-playing in order to develop confidence in speaking. Students are given the opportunity to practice their skills individually or in small groups with a native Newar speaker.

Prerequisites: None.

WLAN 102 Nepal Bhasa II **3 Cr.**

Building on Newar I, this course aims to develop students' ability to communicate in spoken and written Newar. More complicated grammatical structures and further vocabulary are introduced and students engage actively in the classroom to further develop their skills in basic communication. An emphasis will be placed on acquisition of language skills that will facilitate communication with local informants, for field research purposes. As in Newar I, students have access to native Newar speakers with whom to practice conversation skills.

Prerequisites: WLAN 101: Nepal Bhasa I

WLAN 201 Nepal Bhasa III **3 Cr.**

This course builds on the basic understanding of Newar grammar and vocabulary acquired in Newar I and II. Students develop facility with more complex sentence structures and gain a more extensive vocabulary. After a review of the basic Newar grammatical structures learned previously, this course covers increasingly more complex sentence structures while emphasizing practical language use and application so that students become more and more comfortable and fluent with their spoken Newar. In addition to enhancing language skills that are useful for field research purposes, students will study the most common alphasyllabaries used in Newar manuscripts. They will also gain familiarity with the use of the National Archives and the Asha Saphu Kuti, the main repositories of Newar Buddhist manuscripts. During classes students are given the opportunity to practice their skills privately or in small groups with a native Newar speaker.

Prerequisites: WLAN 102: Nepal Bhasa II

WLAN 202 Nepal Bhasa IV **3 Cr.**

Building on Newar III, this course continues with increasingly more complex and nuanced sentence structures and vocabulary usage. There will be continued emphasis on practical language use and fluency in spoken Newar. At the same time, students will enhance their ability to decipher and translate Newar manuscripts, including those written in Old Newar. Students will work closely with the instructor to learn the art of editing and translating Newar manuscripts. As in Newar III, students have access to native Newar speakers with whom to practice conversational and reading skills.
Prerequisites: WLAN 201: Nepal Bhasa III

Summer Semester Courses

Credit may be applied to the BA degree. Summer courses entail 160 hours of instruction time.

- TSTD 120 Buddhist Studies Summer Program I 6 Cr.
  Prerequisite: None
- TSTD 220 Intermediate Buddhist Studies Summer Program II 6 Cr.
  Prerequisites: TSTD 102 and BSTD 102 or equivalent
- TSTD 320 Advanced Buddhist Studies Summer Program III 6 Cr.
- TLAN 115 Beginning Classical Tibetan 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to TLAN 101 and TLAN 102
- TLAN 215 Intermediate Classical Tibetan 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to for TLAN 201 and TLAN 202
- TLAN 315 Advanced Classical Tibetan 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to TLAN 301 and TLAN 302
- TLAN 120 Beginning Colloquial Tibetan 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to TLAN 103 and TLAN 104
- TLAN 220 Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to TLAN 203 and TLAN 204
- TLAN 320 Advanced Colloquial Tibetan 6 Cr
  Equivalent to TLAN 303 and TLAN 304
- NLAN 120 Beginning Nepali 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to NLAN 101 and NLAN 102

- NLAN 220: Intermediate Nepali 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to NLAN 201 and NLAN 202
- SLAN 120 Beginning Sanskrit 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to SLAN 101 and SLAN 102
- SLAN 220 Intermediate Sanskrit 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to SLAN 201 and SLAN 202
- SLAN 320 Advanced Sanskrit 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to SLAN 301 and SLAN 302
- ELAN 101 Advanced English and Study Methods 6 Cr.
- PLAN 115 Beginning Pāli 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to PLAN 101 and PLAN 102
- CLAN 115 Beginning Buddhist Literary Chinese 6 Cr.
  Equivalent to CLAN 101 and CLAN 102

Evaluation Scheme

The academic performance of the student is judged through:

- Continuous in-semester assessment (50%)
- End-of-semester assessment (50%)

The continuous in-semester assessment of the student is made by the concerned faculty member using any or a combination of the following:

- Written tests
- Assignments
- Term papers
- Oral presentations
- Any other method deemed suitable by the concerned faculty member.

The end-of-semester examination will normally be conducted according to the examination schedule as notified by the concerned office.

The mode of evaluation in a given course is decided by the concerned faculty member who may assign varying weights to one or more of the evaluation modes. The faculty member will announce such weights at the beginning of the course.

Grading Mode:

In each course, the student will be evaluated on a 4-point scale as follows:

Letter Grade									
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.0	Fail
Grade Value									

The grades used to indicate the quality of a student's performance are as follows:

A = Excellent
B = Very good
C = Good
D = Fair
F = Failure

Grade	Grade Value	Remarks
A	4	Outstanding
A-	3.7	Excellent
B+	3.3	Very Good
B	3.0	Good
B-	2.7	Fair
C+	2.3	Fair
C	2.0	Fair
C-	1.7	Poor
D	1.0	Poor
F	0.0	Fail

In addition to the letter grades mentioned above, the following letter grades may be awarded:

W = Withdrawn
INC = Incomplete
NC = Non-credit course

S = Satisfactory

U = Unsatisfactory

Grade Point Average

Each letter grade is converted into the specific grade value associated with that grade. The Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated by multiplying the grade value of the earned grade by the number of credits for the course and dividing that total number of grade points by the total number of semester credits. The GPA must be 2.0 or above at the end of each semester.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)

Overall student performance is reported as a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) which is a weighted average of all course credits earned. The CGPA defines the overall performance category:

CGPA	Performance
3.5 to 4.0	Distinction
3.0 and below 3.5	First Division
2.0 and below 3.0	Second Division
Less than 2.0	Fail

Graduation

To graduate, students must complete the minimum number of required course credits in each category and a total of 120 credits, with not less than a D grade in each course. Additionally, a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least 2.0 is required for graduation.

Notes

Notes