KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	ATSE 501/601
Course Title	Advanced Textual Study English I / V
Course Topic	The Gateway to Knowledge (Abhidharma)
Credit	6
Course Delivery Mode	Monthly meetings
Semester, Year	Fall 2026
Required texts	All the required readings will be distributed in Teams.
Optional Readings	N/A

Course Description

This course consists of two components: 1) The textual studies of a Tibetan philosophical treatise, and 2) the study of secondary academic literature on the topic.

1) The Textual Study

This semester we will study *Gateway to Knowledge* (*mkhas pa'i tshul la 'jug pa'i sgo*) by Ju Mipham Rinpoche (1846–1912), translated into English as "The Gateway to Knowledge." The text outlines the foundational structures of Buddhist thought in the tradition of Abhidharma, according to the perspective of both the Foundational Vehicle and the Greater Vehicle. In the fall semester we will begin to explore the "ten topics which cause learnedness," focusing on how cognition in its various aspects can be categorized and explained. The monastic scholar, or Khenpo, will give a word-by-word oral commentary on the text, while also allowing time for questions and answers with students. Students are thus expected to prepare for class daily by reading the text covered in the previous day's class.

2) The Academic Component

The MA academic component consists of academic research and seminar-style meetings. There will be three seminar meetings during the semester. The exact times and dates of these meetings will be decided at the start of the semester.

Since the purpose of the course is to train students in academic methods in preparation for preparing their MA theses, there will be specialized readings assigned for each of the meetings. Students are required to come to the meetings with a reflection paper based on the readings. The

course concludes with a research paper.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will have a solid grasp of the root text and the ability to navigate and use necessary resources for Buddhist Studies research in the field of Abhidharma.

Course Requirements	
How do I succeed in the course?	Come to class prepared to participate actively in class discussion; complete all written assignments on time, correctly, and with all components of the assignments intact.
Assessments	Weight
1. Assignments in the Textual Study Part consisting of	**50%**
• Quizzes	- 5%
• Short papers	- 10%
• Midterm exam	- 10%
• Final exam (may consist of 2 elements)	- 25%
2. Assigments in the Academic Component	**50%**
• Reflection papers to be submitted before the monthly meetings (3)	- 20%
• Research paper: approximately 12-15 pages (3000-3750 words) on a topic related to the text under study. Paper topics should be discussed with the supervisor well in advance of exam week and must be approved.	- 30%