KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	BSTD 505/603
Course Title	Research Seminar I / III
Course topic	Research Seminar I / III
Credit	3
Semester, Year	Fall 2027
Schedule: class day & time	Please consult F27 course schedule
Class Location	Please consult F27 course schedule
Course Delivery Mode	Seminar, on campus
Required text(s)	TBD

Course Description

These seminars focus on research methods and critical issues in current academic scholarship in the field of Buddhist Studies and related areas such as philosophy, religion, anthropology, and history. The aim of the course is to help students develop the critical skills, perspectives, knowledge base and research methods required for graduate level work in Buddhist Studies, and for writing the MA thesis in particular. Topics vary by semester. Past topics have included such courses as: Mindfulness and Buddhist Epistemology, Methodological Perspectives on Madhyamaka, Ritual Theory and Religious Experience, Tibetan Cultural History and Historiography, The Insider/Outsider Problem in the Study of Buddhism, and Yogācāra in Tibet.

Course Requirements	
How do I succeed in the course?	Much of the work for this course is independent. You will succeed in this course if you develop great enthusiasm in reading primary and secondary source materials as part of your thesis research. This will help you in formulating your approach to your topic, and you will be successful in writing preliminary drafts of various sections of the introductory section of your thesis.

Assessments	**Weight**
Active participation in class discussions and one-on-one meetings	10%
In-class presentations	20%
Drafts of sections prepared for one-on-one meetings	20%
Final Assignment	50% consisting of (a) Final presentation—with other RYI faculty as well as MA and PhD students in attendance: 20% (b) Final drafts of individual thesis sections (totaling between 25-50 pages): 30%