KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	BSTD 601
Course Title	Thesis Writing Workshop
Course Topic	Writing the MA Thesis in Buddhist Studies
Credits	6
Semester, Year	Fall 2027
Schedule: class day & time	Please consult F27 course schedule
Class Location	Please consult F27 course schedule
Course Delivery Mode	Seminar & writing workshop
Prerequisites	Successful completion of all MA coursework
Readings	1) *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in the Study of Religion*, edited by Michael Stausberg and Steven Engler, Routledge: London and New York, 2011. 2) Selected readings

Course Description

This course is comprised of weekly workshop-style meetings that instruct and support the writing process of the MA thesis. Group meetings will alternate with individual meetings of the students with their supervisors. (The schedule will be slightly adjusted to include more workshop meetings at the beginning of the semester and more time for individual research and writing at the end of the semester.)

The aims of the MA thesis workshop are to provide: 1) structure and accountability for the early stages of thesis research and writing, 2) guidance regarding the nuts and bolts of research in Buddhist studies, 3) an opportunity to exchange work with fellow students, 4) practice presenting one's work, and 5) an opportunity to reflect on key methodological problems related to the research topic. Individual meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss the thesis project in greater depth.

Assignment

The reading, writing, and presentation assignments are geared towards generating a draft of the literature review and methodology statement (part of the introduction to the thesis) as well as a thesis chapter by the end of the semester. To this end, each student will design a reading schedule in consultation with the instructor and the thesis supervisor.

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Assessments	**Weight**
1. Zotero bibliography and reading list	10%
2. Critical reflection on 2 key sources on methodology	20%
3. Draft of the methodology statement and literature review	20%
4. Final (One thesis chapter)	50%