KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	BSTD 705
Course Title	Methodology Seminar I
Course Topic	Translation Methodology Seminar I
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	Lecture
Required texts	All the required readings will be uploaded to "Class Materials" in Teams.
Optional Readings	All the optional readings will be uploaded to "Class Materials" in Teams.
Prerequisites	MA TTIP enrollment

Course Description

Translation Methodology Seminar I (BSTD 705) explores key topics in the theory and practice of translation within the wider context of a comparative historical survey of Buddhist translation traditions. It also introduces principles and methods for translating various genres of Buddhist texts. Students will develop an awareness of diverse translation strategies and techniques, as well as an understanding of structural features that shape textual meaning.

Course Aims

1. Introduce major issues in translation studies, along with relevant methodologies for translation and textual interpretation.
2. Familiarize students with methods of historical and textual contextualization across Pāli, Gandhārī, Sanskrit, Chinese, and Tibetan Buddhist traditions.
3. Examine selected themes in the Euro-American tradition of translation theory and practice.
4. Apply both traditional and modern translation theories and methods to Tibetan and Sanskrit materials through interactive, practice-oriented activities.

Assessment

- **Ongoing Assessment (50%)**
  Includes participation in class discussions and two short papers (approximately 5 pages each), each followed by a 15-minute presentation.
- **Final Assessment (50%)**
  Consists of a final paper (approximately 10 pages) and a 25-minute presentation on the paper's findings.

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Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to navigate and utilize key resources for translation methodology and textual interpretation; identify major translation theories and methodological developments; assess textual genres and issues; employ translation tools effectively; and analyze texts, structures, and contexts to determine appropriate translation strategies. More specifically, students will be able to:

1. Recognize a range of translation methods and techniques.
2. Describe key aspects and challenges involved in the process of translation.
3. Apply principles and methods for translating Tibetan and Sanskrit texts into English.
4. Demonstrate a higher level of competence and confidence in undertaking translation work.

Course Requirements	
How do I succeed in the course?	Come to class prepared and ready to participate actively in discussion, and complete all assignments on time, accurately, and with all required components.
Assessment	Weight
1. In-class discussions: students are expected to consistently demonstrate engagement with the assigned readings by contributing regularly to class discussions.	10% of final grade
2. Short Paper I (~5 pages) on a translator important in the history of Buddhism in ancient Tibet or China.	10% of final grade
3. Presentation I (~15 minutes) on a translator.	10% of final grade
4. Short Paper II (~5 pages) on a translation method.	10% of final grade
5. Presentation II (~15 minutes) on a translation method.	10% of final grade
6. Final Paper I (~10 pages) on the critical application of translation analysis to a term of Sanskrit/Tibetan Buddhist tradition.	25% of final grade
7. Final Presentation on the findings of the final paper (~25 minutes).	25% of final grade