KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	BSTD 803
Course Title	Methodology Seminar III
Course topic	Methodology in Textual Translation, Interpretation, and Philology
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, on campus
Required text(s)	TBD
Optional Texts	TBD

Course Description

This course is designed to guide students through the initial stages of research in preparation for completing their MA theses. This course and its complement—BSTD 802—are unique in that the trajectory of the class is largely driven by students' individual interests as well as their preparation and participation. The main goal of this course is to place you in the best possible position to complete your MA thesis in a timely manner. As a prerequisite for participation in this class, each student must have submitted a thesis proposal to the TTIP faculty committee. They should have received approval from the committee. If that is not possible, the student should submit—before the first class—a revised version of their proposal that reflects the committee's feedback, even if that revision has not been formally approved. The weekly group meetings will focus on the methodology of writing introductions and studies of texts and translations, in both academic and mixed (e.g. academic/practitioner, academic/popular) contexts. This class will include reading and discussing primary and secondary sources, but the primary focus is on in-class presentations and ensuing group discussion—for group meetings—and written sections that contribute to your thesis, for one-on-one meetings.

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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%