KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	CLAN 101 OL
Course Title	Buddhist Literary Chinese I
Semester, Year	Fall, 2027
Course Delivery Mode	Online synchronous
Course Components	2 90-minute lectures per week
Schedule: class day & time	Please consult F27 course schedule
Required Text(s)	1. Chinese reader 2. *Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar* by Edwin Pulleyblank 3. other material supplied as necessary by the instructor
Optional Readings	none
Course Prerequisite	none

This beginner-level course is designed for those seeking experience in reading Buddhist Chinese, specifically *Buddhist Hybrid Chinese* (BHC) texts. The course focuses on developing a foundational understanding of Buddhist technical vocabulary and the syntactical and grammatical structures necessary to read translated Śrāvakayāna and Mahāyāna texts.

The introductory session will cover, among other topics, a brief history of the Chinese language and the nature of BHC.

BHC blends Sinitic literary features with vernacular elements and loanwords, both transliterated and translated. Throughout the course, these characteristics will be examined and analyzed to develop a deeper awareness of this unique genre of the Chinese language.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will have acquired the foundational vocabulary and grammar necessary to read *Buddhist Hybrid Chinese* (BHC). Additionally, you will develop the ability to:

1. Read simple translated *Śrāvakayāna* and *Mahāyāna* Buddhist texts.
2. Understand radicals, the phonetic components of Chinese characters, their pronunciation, and tones.
3. Utilize various digital tools to facilitate self-learning.
4. Gain awareness of the historical development of Chinese Buddhist schools.
5. Navigate and use the digitized Chinese Buddhist canon for research.

6. Develop an understanding of different translation conventions and their historical periods in Chinese Buddhist texts.

Course Requirements	
How do I succeed in the course?	• Lectures are designed to recite and memorize the text regularly. • Active class participation, answering the quizzes and supporting classmates in discussions are essential components of learning in this class. • Participants are expected to prepare the lessons given and read in turn in the class when asked, explaining the meaning with some grammatical analysis. • Lectures will supplement the class readings. Students are responsible for keeping up with all the materials covered in the lectures and in the readings.
Assessments	Weight
1. Class participation	10%
2. Weekly exams	15%
3. Mid-term exam	25%
4. Final assessment: • Final written exam • Final oral exam	 25% 25%

Important Dates

Aug. 30	Fall semester classes begin
Sept. 14–16	End of Yarney—no TSTD classes (to be confirmed)
Oct. 4–8	Reading week—no classes
Oct. 10	Dashain Vijaya Dashami—no classes, offices closed
Oct. 31	Tihar Bhai Tika—no classes, offices closed
Nov. 19–29	Annual Fall Seminar—no classes (to be confirmed)
Dec. 10	Fall semester classes end
Dec. 13–17	Exam week

Class Schedule

TBD