KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	TLAN 101 OL
Course Title	Classical Tibetan I
Semester, Year	Fall, 2027
Course Delivery Mode	Online synchronous
Course Components	2 90-minute lectures per week 1 60-minute traditional class per week
Schedule: class day & time	Please consult F27 course schedule
Required Text(s)	1. Collet-Cassart, Benjamin. *A Classical Tibetan Grammar Handbook*. available in digital form on Teams and in hardcopy in the office. 2. Additional required files and handouts will be provided in digital form by the instructor.
Optional Readings	The Rangjung Yeshe Dictionary, created by Erik Pema Kunsang (available online, along with some additional dictionary resources, at: http://rywiki.tsadra.org/index.php/Main_Page)
Course Prerequisite	Students enroling in TLAN 101 must have familiarity with the Tibetan script before joining the course. Knowledge of the Tibetan script is normally obtained through a combination of 1. pre-recorded alphabet lessons 2. mandatory Tibetan alphabet classes during the pre-semester orientation week. Students are required to prepare for orientation-week alphabet classes by watching pre-recorded video lectures for learning the Tibetan script. These videos will be shared with students before the alphabet classes. During orientation week, students will have live classes with the main teachers and the assistant language instructors (ALIs) to review and practice the material covered by the video lessons. Please note that these live classes are not designed to teach the Tibetan alphabet and reading rules. Instead, they are intended to answer questions that students have after watching the pre-recorded alphabet lessons.

Course Description

This course introduces students to basic classical Tibetan vocabulary and grammar, first emphasizing familiarizing students with basic grammatical principles and then facilitating proficiency through practical application. The course covers the principal topics of classical Tibetan grammar using digital grammar handouts and short textual passages from Tibetan Buddhist literature. The teaching method involves a blend of prerecorded lectures and on-campus classes, which include Q&A and group discussions. During the grammar classes, the instructor will review the material covered in previous sessions, offering additional insights and pose questions. This approach allows students to apply their newly acquired knowledge of Tibetan grammar and vocabulary, seek clarification on any unclear material, and ask other Tibetan language-related questions. After completing this course, students will be able to read and understand essential classical Tibetan texts with a dictionary.

In addition to three weekly hours of grammar classes held by the grammar instructor, there will be one weekly hour of traditional class led by an instructor who is Tibetan-speaking and familiar with indigenous Tibetan grammar. The traditional class aims to develop the ability to read Tibetan fluently, emphasizing the pronunciation of new vocabulary (and providing additional grammar review where necessary). The traditional class segment includes indigenous approaches to learning classical Tibetan, focusing on spelling aloud, reading/writing, and mastering Tibetan terminology.

All activities outside class time occur on Microsoft Teams, the teamwork and interactive learning app in Microsoft O365. Students receive their ryi.org email addresses and can participate in the learning activities via Teams. All students have access to the course materials, which include the PDF textbook, videos, homework assignments, and digital learning materials.

A note about the lessons: The lectures are intended to supplement a careful study of your textbook, not replace it. It is advisable to read the required pages of your textbook before watching the videos for each lesson. Additionally, you may want to revisit the textbook after watching the lecture to clarify any points further. If you still have questions about the lecture content, please feel free to ask during our live classes. We are using an updated textbook version this semester, so some page numbers mentioned in the lectures may not correspond to our updated book. However, all page numbers of the grammar sections in the reader are listed in the "Class Schedule" below.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will:

- know the basic classical grammar and some vocabulary
- have deepened their knowledge through class practice and discussion, as well as homework assignments from the reader
- be able to translate simple Tibetan sentences and texts; discuss grammar, context-related translations, and alternative meanings of terms within different contexts
- begin to use digital dictionaries.

Course Requirements	
How do I succeed in the course?	All homework assignments must be submitted on the day they are due, and all quizzes must be written on the day they are given. Weekly quizzes will test the memorization of the weekly vocabulary lists (25–50 words) and the grammar and structures covered in class that week. Spelling counts!
Assessments	Weight
Homework Assignments	10%
Traditional Class Assignments	10%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	50% written test of vocabulary and grammar (including grammar analysis)

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