KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	TLAN 103 OL
Course Title	Colloquial Tibetan I
Semester, Year	Fall, 2027
Course Delivery Mode	Online synchronous
Course Components	2 60-minute master classes per week 2 60-minute ALI classes per week 1 60-minute Boost class per week
Schedule: class day & time	Please consult F27 course schedule
Required Text(s)	1. Oertle, Franziska. *The Heart of the Tibetan Language Vol.1.* (Textbook and Exercise Book). These are available in paperback for purchase at the RYI office, on Amazon and at some local bookstores in the US. A digital version is available for download on Franziska's website: http://franziska.in/#portfoliop as well as at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives website. Weekly grammar handouts and vocabulary lists based on the book will be given to students as digital files. 2. The Anki Decks for the vocabulary of both Volume 1 & 2 (English and Spanish), as well as other useful learning materials, are available on Franziska's website for free (http://franziska.in/#portfoliop)
Optional Readings	1. Tournadre, Nicholas & Sangda Dorje. (2003). *Manual of Standard Tibetan: Language and Civilization*. Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications. 2. Goldstein, Melvyn. (2001). *The New Tibetan-English Dictionary of Modern Tibetan.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Also available in Indian print. 3. Goldstein, Melvyn. (1984). *English-Tibetan Dictionary of Modern Tibetan.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Also available in Indian print. 4. *Bod rgya tshig mdzod chen mo*. (1993). Beijing: Nationalities Publishing House. 5. 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 103 must have familiarity with the Tibetan script before joining the course. Knowledge of the Tibetan script is normally obtained through our mandatory Tibetan alphabet classes during the pre-semester orientation week. In addition, students are required to prepare for orientation-week alphabet classes by watching video lectures for learning the Tibetan script. These videos will be shared before the alphabet classes. The RYI alphabet classes include lessons on how to pronounce the letters and simple words. These alphabet classes are led by both native speakers and non-native speakers, followed by practice sessions with native speakers.

Course Description

This course is for students with no prior study of spoken Tibetan and introduces students to basic colloquial Tibetan vocabulary and grammar, with an emphasis on the students' gaining oral proficiency in colloquial language. During the fall semester students will gain fluency in reading the Tibetan script and we will cover the basic grammar of spoken Tibetan complemented with a wide selection of useful colloquial vocabulary. Through the classes taught by the instructors, combined with conversation training led by Tibetan Assistant Language Instructors (ALIs), students will achieve the necessary skills to carry on a simple conversation in modern Tibetan. During the boost classes guided by ALIs, students will get the opportunity to practice the grammar and vocabulary that they learned in class with special methods such as drill, dramatic dialogs, games etc.

All digital class activities will take place based on Microsoft Teams, the app in Microsoft Office 365 designed for teamwork and interactive learning. Students enrolled in this class will receive their own ryi.org email address and be authorized to participate in all learning activities via Teams.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type, such as: "How are you?" "I am from …" etc. This also refers to frequently used Tibetan expressions in class.
- introduce themselves and others, ask and answer questions about personal details such as where they live, people they know and things they have. This includes statements and questions with essential verbs, existential verbs and main verbs in the three tenses, as well as the imperative mode.
- understand and express sentences about school, landscapes and towns, eating and drinking, family, leisure activities, weather and shopping.
- tell the time and date, express numbers up to 1000 in Tibetan.

- Listening comprehension and speaking: interact with each other and the teachers/ALIs in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
- Reading comprehension and writing: read slowly with correct pronunciation and understand sentences with the grammar and vocabulary of the first semester. They should write their own sentences / translate sentences in Tibetan with correct spelling.

In particular, students who successfully pass this class will understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g., basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). They will be able to communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. They will be able to describe in simple terms aspects of their background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

Course Requirements	
How do I succeed in the course?	Students are required to memorize weekly vocabulary lists. This vocabulary is tested in weekly online quizzes and is utilized in class as well. Memorization is a very important component for learning a new language, therefore the instructors emphasize this aspect of the class. Weekly quizzes will test the memorization of vocabulary lists handed out each week (25–50 words) and will focus primarily on the grammatical structures covered in class that week but may also include the ones from previous lessons. A considerable amount of preparation, memorization, and completion of written assignments is expected from the student to ensure progress. All homework assignments must be submitted on the day they are due, and all quizzes must be written on the day they are given. Students must inform the course instructor if they will miss a quiz or be unable to turn in a homework assignment due to illness. In this case, the quiz or assignment may be made up. Homework assignments or quizzes missed *for any other reason* may not be made up and the student will receive a grade of 0 for that particular assignment or quiz.
Assessments	Weight
Active Class Participation and Homework Assignments	10%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	50% (written and oral)

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