KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	TLAN 201 OL
Course Title	Classical Tibetan III
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. 2022 (1st ed. 2011). *A Classical Tibetan Grammar Handbook*. Kathmandu: Rangjung Yeshe Institute. This handbook is used for review and reference throughout the semester. This and further materials on Tibetan grammar will be available online throughout the semester. 2. All students need to have access to one or more (digital) Tibetan-English dictionaries: • The "TibetanDict" app is available for android and apple devices. It provides entries from various Tibetan English dictionaries, as well as Tibetan dictionaries like *tshig mdzod chen mo.* • Christian Steinert's online dictionary: provides entries from various dictionaries as well: https://dictionary.christian-steinert.de • Illuminator Dictionary Tibetan Dictionaries and Glossaries - Padma Karpo Translation Committee (pktc.org) needs to be purchased.
Optional Readings	1. Rockwell, John Jr. 1991. *A Primer for Classical Literary Tibetan*. Vol. 1: The Grammar. Barnet: Samadhi Bookstore. 2. *The Rangjung Yeshe Dictionary* created by Erik Pema Kunsang provides reference to many further resources and dictionaries. http://rywiki.tsadra.org/index.php/Main_Page. 3. Printed dictionaries: • *Bod rgya tshigs mdzod chen mo*. Beijing: Mi rigs dpe skrun khang, 1993.

	• *Dag yig gsar bsgrigs*. Xining: Mtsho sngon mi rigs dpe skrun khang, 2006.
Course Prerequisite	Students enrolling in TLAN 201 must have completed two semesters (TLAN 101 and 102 or TLAN 115) at RYI or equivalent courses at another institution. Students who are not able to provide documentation of prior study may be asked to take a placement exam.

Course Description

TLAN 201 is an interactive course which helps students who already have basic knowledge of classical Tibetan language to significantly develop their language proficiency. The course focuses on reading selected texts from different genres, traditions, and times.

Students will be expected to:

1. Before each class—read and prepare assigned sections of texts.
2. During each class—participate by sharing their translation or understanding of certain sections of the text when called upon, and by asking questions as needed.
3. After each class—review the sections read in class to consolidate their understanding.

Most time in class will be spent on reading together and discussing the grammar and meaning of Tibetan texts. In addition to three weekly hours of reading class, there will be one weekly hour of a traditional class that will be led by an instructor who is Tibetan speaking and familiar with indigenous Tibetan grammar. The traditional class portion includes indigenous approaches to learning the classical Tibetan language, focusing on spelling aloud, reading/writing and learning the Tibetan terminology.

We will read excerpts from a selection of the following texts:

1. Buton's History of Buddhism, Life Story of the Buddha
2. Wisdom of the Time of Death Sūtra (Atyayajñānasūtra)
3. Seven Point Mind Training and Commentary (Chekaba, Kongtrul)
4. How to Ascertain the two Types of Selflessness (Mipham)
5. Mahamudra Prayer of Definitive Meaning (3rd Karmapa)
6. How to Take Sickness onto the Path (Thogme Sangpo)
7. A Song by Shabkar
8. Words of my Perfect Teacher, cultivating equanimity (Patrul)
9. Milarepa's Hagiography, first meeting with Marpa (Tsang Nyon Heruka)
10. A Condensed (Sukhāvatī) Prayer (Mingyur Dorje)
11. The Treasury of Blessings: a Ritual of the Muni (Mipham)

The reading list may be adjusted during the course in order to meet the needs of the participants. Due to time limitations only a small portion of these texts will be covered.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop more fluency in reading and understanding Tibetan sentences and texts of different genres and periods in history.
- With the help of grammar analysis practiced in class they will be able to understand grammatical structures and complex sentences more easily
- Through exposure to the traditional Tibetan grammar students can broaden their understanding of the language in its cultural context.
- Students have the chance to build up their general and specifically dharma- vocabulary for higher efficiency in reading and translation
- Students can develop a careful usage of online resources with the perspective to rely more strongly on Tibetan resources and dictionaries in the following semester and in the future.

Course Requirements	
How do I succeed in the course?	You can best benefit from the course by actively participating and investing the necessary amount of time in preparation and review. That includes preparing and reviewing the readings for class, studying vocabulary and grammar on a regular basis. You will have the chance to test your knowledge in regular vocabulary quizzes. In the midterm and final exam you will be able to demonstrate your knowledge in translation and grammar analysis.
Assessments	Weight
1. Class participation and homework	5%
2. Quizzes	15%
3. Traditional component	10%
4. Midterm exam	20%
5. Final exam	50%

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