KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	TLAN 301/401 OL
Course Title	Classical Tibetan Translation Project I Advanced Classical Tibetan Seminar 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 Texts	All required translation texts and readings are uploaded to "Class Materials" in Teams.
Optional Readings	none
Course Prerequisite	Students enrolling in TLAN 301 must have completed four semesters (up to TLAN 201 and 202 or TLAN 215) at RYI or equivalent courses at another institution. Students enrolling in TLAN 401 must have completed six semesters (up to TLAN 301 and 302 or TLAN 315) 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

Classical Tibetan Translation Project (TLAN 301)/Advanced Classical Tibetan Seminar (TLAN 401) is a joined third and fourth year Classical Tibetan course aimed at developing and further strengthening students' skills in independent translation of texts from the Tibetan language into English through studying translation methodology and engaging into the guided translation practice.

The class has three main components:

(1) study of the selected readings on translation methodology, textual criticism, source evaluation, and historical contextualization. Students are expected to read the provided material and come to Monday classes ready to discuss it.

(2) In-class readings of the assigned translations. Students are expected to come to each class having prepared their own translations and be ready to read and discuss them.

(3) Independent translation project, i.e., translation of a text that has not been translated into English. Students will be given an untranslated sūtra text to translate from Tibetan into English. The translation project will be structured as two assignments: (a) submission of the draft translation; (b) submission of the final annotated translation with introduction.

The course is focused on the Mahāyāna sūtra and śāstra literature. Translation texts will be assigned by the instructor.

Learning Outcomes

Students can expect to come away from this class with improved understanding of Tibetan grammar and increased vocabulary; a deeper familiarity with Tibetan literature in general and the philosophical genre in particular; and a greater understanding of what is required of a professional translator and the skills to begin working on professional-level translations. This course is particularly well-suited for those who aspire to work as professional translators but is appropriate for anyone from any background who wishes to move their Tibetan reading comprehension and English translation skills to the next level.

Course Requirements

Students will have three types of assignments:
(1) in-class translations and readings ongoing throughout the semester;
(2) a midterm exam and submission of the draft independent translation project in the middle of semester; and
(3) final assessment consisting in the submission of the finalized independent translation project with introduction.

Assessments	Weight
1. In-class translation and discussion	20% of final grade
2. Draft independent translation project	10% of final grade
3. Midterm exam	20% of final grade
4. Final Exam	50% of final grade (finalized translation project: introduction 25% and annotated translation 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