KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	TSTD 305/405
Course Title	Buddhist Philosophical Discourse I, III
Course Topic	Words of My Perfect Teacher, kun bzang bla ma'i zhal lung
Credit	3
Semester, Year	Fall 2027
Schedule: class day & time	Please consult F27 course schedule
Class Location	Please consult F27 course schedule
Course Delivery Mode	Concurrent: on campus and live streamed, Tibetan language without translation
Required text(s)	Words of My Perfect Teacher, kun bzang bla ma'i zhal lung
Optional Readings	TBA

Course Description

This course develops the students' ability to actively participate in philosophical discourse and analysis in Tibetan. The instructor gives oral commentary in Tibetan on a classical philosophical text, in this case, *The Words of my Perfect Teacher*, or *kun bzang bla ma'i zhal lung*. In this work, Patrul Rinpoche offers a deeply accessible and experiential guide to the preliminary practices (*ngöndro*) of the Nyingma tradition. Blending vivid stories, practical advice, and direct instruction, the text emphasizes devotion to the teacher, renunciation, compassion, and contemplation of impermanence and karma. Its purpose is to transform the practitioner's mindset, making the foundational practices a powerful gateway to genuine realization.

In this way, the students are introduced to a combination of literary exegetical and standard modern colloquial forms of spoken Tibetan. This provides a context-rich immersion environment for the development of student understanding of the combined literary and vernacular Tibetan speech patterns common to Tibetan Buddhist religious discourses.

Course Description

Class attendance of at least 80%, active class participation (question and answer, in Tibetan), one mid-term exam and one final exam. The exams will be given in Tibetan.

Assessments	Weight
1. Mid-term Exam	50% of final grade
2. Final Exam	50% of final grade