

TLAN 101: Classical Tibetan I

Fall 2021

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(individual meetings by appointment)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Collet-Cassart, Benjamin. *A Classical Tibetan Grammar Handbook*. A digital version will be available for students.

More digital text files and handouts will be available online.

OTHER USEFUL MATERIAL:

The Rangjung Yeshe dictionary created by Erik Pema Kunsang is available online, along with some additional dictionary resources, at: http://rywiki.tsadra.org/index.php/Main_Page.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to basic classical Tibetan vocabulary and grammar, with emphasis on first familiarizing students with basic grammatical principles and then facilitating proficiency in them through practical application. The course covers the principal topics of classical Tibetan grammar using digital grammar handouts, as well as textual passages from Tibetan Buddhist literature. The teaching method in this semester involves a blend of prerecorded lectures and live review classes, which include Q&A and group discussions. After completing this course, students will start to be able to read and understand basic classical Tibetan texts with the aid of a dictionary.

All class activities take place based in “Teams”, which is the app for teamwork and interactive learning in Microsoft O365. Students receive their own ryi.org email addresses and are authorized to participate in the learning activities via Teams. All students have access to the course materials, which include the PDF textbook, videos, homework assignments, and supplemental learning materials. There will be live-streamed review sessions each week, available to students at a time suitable for their time zone. These live-streamed sessions give students a chance to ask the teachers questions, clarify difficult points, and hear the questions that other students ask.

Course Structure:

- Two one-hour live classes per week
- Pre-recorded material: about 30 minutes of video grammar lectures per week (to be watched individually)
- Homework assignments (required), vocabulary flashcards
- Weekly quiz assignments on grammar and vocabulary

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the Tibetan script. This knowledge can be obtained through our online Tibetan alphabet class and/or during orientation if you are not already familiar with reading and pronouncing Tibetan syllables and letters. **The online alphabet course is available free to students signed up for this course for credit,** and video lectures for learning the alphabet will be available in the Orientation team.

Additionally, **students should be able to view the audio/video lectures on a computer or hand-held device, read Tibetan fonts on a computer, and type in Tibetan,** since quizzes and homework assignments require

students to type in Tibetan. The handouts entitled “Typing Tibetan on PC” and “Setting up your Mac for Typing Tibetan” provided in the Orientation Team will help you with preparing your computer to work with Tibetan fonts.

Because this course focuses on the written language and assumes the ability to read and write in Tibetan, there is little emphasis on the pronunciation of new vocabulary, although the Tibetan Alphabet class does include audio files of native speakers pronouncing the letters and simple words.

Discussion: A live class will be held twice a week at two different time zones (Eurasia time zone and America time zone). The instructor will review the material covered in previous days, sharing extra insights into the material, while also taking questions. This a great opportunity for students to ask questions on any material that was unclear or get answers on other Tibetan language related questions.

A note about the lessons: The lectures are intended to supplement – not replace – careful study of your textbook. It is best to read the required pages of your textbook *before* viewing the videos for each lesson. You may also wish to revisit the textbook after viewing the lecture, to clarify any additional points. If you still have questions about the content of a lecture, please do not hesitate to ask during our live classes. This semester, we are using an updated version of the textbook. As a result, some of the page numbers mentioned in the lectures do not correspond to our updated book. Where necessary, updated page numbers are annotated in red in the PowerPoint lectures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To complete this course, students must meet an 80% minimum attendance requirement and pass each of the following five course elements:

1. Active class participation and homework (10% of the final grade)
2. Weekly quizzes (20% of the final grade)
3. Midterm exam (20% of the final grade)
4. Final exam (50% of the final grade)

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! Both the midterm and the final exam will be a written test of vocabulary and grammar.

Per Kathmandu University policy, students must maintain a minimum of 80% class attendance in order to pass this course. If you are unable to attend a class session, please contact the instructor as far in advance as possible.

Students are expected to be familiar with RYI guidelines on academic honesty. Please refer to the Student Guidebook, section 1.9, for further details. If you have questions about the tenets of academic honesty and integrity, please consult the instructor and/or the RYI writing coach.

GRADING:

A numerical mark will be given for each of the five course requirements. At the end of the semester, these will be averaged and a letter grade will be given according to the following grading scheme:

Letter Grade	Grade Points	Percentage
A	4.00	$\geq 93.3\%$
A-	3.67	$\geq 90.0\%$
B+	3.33	$\geq 86.6\%$
B	3.00	$\geq 83.3\%$
B-	2.67	$\geq 80.0\%$
C+	2.33	$\geq 76.6\%$
C	2.00	$\geq 73.3\%$
C-	1.67	$\geq 70.0\%$
D	1.00	$\geq 60-69\%$
F	Fail	$<60\%$