TLAN 103 Colloquial Tibetan I
Fall 2020

INSTRUCTORS: Nawang Choegyal and Judith Debbeler

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Judith Debbeler: judith.debbeler@ryi.org

Master Class Times: S1: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm (Nepal time)
S2: Monday and Wednesday 7:45 pm – 8:45 pm (Nepal time)

ALI Class Times: S1, ALI A: Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 am – 10:00 am (Nepal time)
S1, ALI B: Monday and Wednesday, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Nepal time)

S2, ALI A: Tuesday and Thursday 7:45 pm – 8:45 pm (Nepal time)
S2, ALI B: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 am – 9:00 am (Nepal time)
S2, ALI C: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:45 pm – 9:45 pm (Nepal time)

Required Texts:

Oertle, Franziska. The Heart of the Tibetan Language Vol.1. (Textbook and Exercise Book)
A digital version of this textbook and grammar handouts based on the book will be available for students.

Recommended Texts:


The Rangjung Yeshe dictionary created by Erik Pema Kunsang is now available online, along with some additional dictionary resources, at: http://rywiki.tsadra.org/index.php/Main_Page.
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, students will achieve the necessary skills to carry on a simple conversation in modern Tibetan.

The teaching methods in this semester involve digital class materials (such as grammar books and handouts, vocabulary lists and other learning aids), prerecorded course materials (such as vocabulary audio files and grammar lessons), interactive video classes with the instructors and individual conversation training with Assistant Language Instructors (ALIs). Gradually, as the semester progresses, the emphasis increasingly moves towards active conversation training. The live-streamed sessions will be available to students at a time suitable for their time zone. All class activities will take place based on “Teams”, which is the app in Microsoft Office 365 designed for teamwork and interactive learning. Students enrolled in this class will receive their own ryi email address and be authorized to participate in all learning activities via Teams.

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.

- 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. Refer to the handout entitled “Reading and Typing in Tibetan” provided with the course materials for assistance with preparing your computer to work with Tibetan fonts.

- Apart from that, it is strongly recommended that students learn and practice writing by hand in Tibetan block script (དབུ་ཅན་, “[letters] having heads”), although it is technically not part of this fall’s online class.

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 weekly homework assignments (10%)
2. Weekly quizzes (20%)
3. Midterm test (20%)
4. Final exam (50%)
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 in order 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.

The midterm test will be a written test of vocabulary and grammar.

The final exam consists of both a written test and an oral examination.

**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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 93.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>≥ 90.0%</td>
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<td>≥ 60-69%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
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