TLAN 103: Colloquial Tibetan I
Fall 2021

INSTRUCTORS: Nawang Choegyal and Judith Debbeler

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Required Texts:
- Oertle, Franziska. *The Heart of the Tibetan Language Vol.1.* (Textbook and Exercise Book). It is available in paperback for purchase on Amazon and at some local bookstores in the US such as: Volume 1, Textbook: https://www.namsebangdzo.com/heart-of-Tibetan-language-p/9789387023680.htm
- Volume 1, Exercise Book: https://www.namsebangdzo.com/heart-of-Tibetan-language-p/9789387023697.htm. It is also available for download on Franziska's website: http://franziska.in/#portfoliop as well as at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives website.
- Weekly grammar handouts and vocabulary lists based on the book will also be available for students.

Recommended Texts:
Tournadre, Nicholas & Sangda Dorje. (2003). *Manual of Standard Tibetan: Language and Civilization*. Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications.

Goldstein, Melvyn. (2001). *The New Tibetan-English Dictionary of Modern Tibetan.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Also available in Indian print.

Goldstein, Melvyn. (1984). *English-Tibetan Dictionary of Modern Tibetan.* Berkeley: University of California Press. Also available in Indian print.

Bod rgya tshig mdzod chen mo. (1993). Beijing: Nationalities Publishing House.

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.

You can choose between course sections, S1 or S2, depending on your time-zone and you will choose one class, out of a choice of four Assisted Language Instructor (ALI) classes, per week when you register.

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 (grammar books and handouts, vocabulary lists, flashcards and other learning aids), prerecorded course materials (such as vocabulary audio files and grammar lectures), 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.org email address and be authorized to participate in all learning activities via Teams.

Course Structure:
- Two one-hour master classes per week
- Two one-hour ALI classes per week
- Pre-recorded material: altogether 30 to 45 minutes of video grammar lectures per week (to be watched individually)
- Homework assignments (required), vocabulary flashcards, flashcards for individual practice

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.

Also, 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 class because your assignments will be typed.

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.

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	Percentage
A	$\geq 93.3\%$
A-	$\geq 90.0\%$
B+	$\geq 86.6\%$
B	$\geq 83.3\%$
B-	$\geq 80.0\%$
C+	$\geq 76.6\%$
C	$\geq 73.3\%$
C-	$\geq 70.0\%$
D	$\geq 60\text{-}69\%$
F	$<60\ \%$