

TLAN 203 Colloquial Tibetan III

Fall 2021 Syllabus

INSTRUCTORS: Tenzin Phuntsok, TBD, and Assistant Language Instructors

Office Hours: *By appointment*

E-MAIL: Tenzin Phuntsok: *Tenzin.Phuntsok@ryi.org*

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Rangjung Yeshe Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan Textbook.

OPTIONAL TEXTS:

--*The Heart of Tibetan Language: bod skad snying po* by Franziska Oertle. Dharamsala: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, 2019.

--Tournadre, Nicolas, and Sangda Dorje. *Manual of Standard Tibetan: Language and Civilization.* Ithaca: Snow Lion Publications, 2003.

--*lha sa'i kha skad sbyong deb* (bod ljongs mi dmangs dpe skrun khang).

--*zhe sa'i lag deb blo gsar dga' ston: Tibetan Honorific Speeches* (bod ljongs mi dmangs dpe skrun khang)

--Lhundup Sopa, Geshe. *Lectures on Tibetan Religious Culture.* Dharamsala: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, 1983.

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 builds on the skills acquired in the first two semesters of Beginner's Tibetan language study. It focuses on continuing to develop various linguistic abilities connected to colloquial Tibetan such as conversational fluency, listening comprehension, vocabulary, reading/writing skills, and knowledge of grammar. These aims are realized by means of different instruction-sessions using a variety of materials and methods. Given the current online format of the course, classes will be run in order to be as accessible and manageable as possible, while still retaining the core elements of our traditional class to facilitate effective learning and engagement in the language.

The student's learning process is facilitated by means of two types of classes: master classes (with a native Tibetan teacher and a native English-speaking teacher), and Assisted Language Instructor (ALI) conversation classes. These are interrelated and the material provided, introduced, and practiced is

precisely coordinated. A considerable amount of preparation, memorization, and completion of written assignments is expected from the students in order to ensure their progress.

The aim of the master classes is to introduce grammar topics found in the *Rangjung Yeshe Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan Textbook* to address the students' questions and to discuss grammatical principles. Furthermore, these classes provide a forum for reading dialogues aloud, an exercise that improves listening comprehension, pronunciation, and fluency. Different activities and exercises will be implemented as much as possible in class with due consideration given to the online environment and the capabilities of students to participate.

The course begins with lesson 21, the first lesson, from the *Rangjung Yeshe Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan Textbook* and covers the rest of the first half of the lessons in the book. The online master class is divided into two main aspects: **1)** a pre-recorded instructional lecture on the current lesson, to prepare students for engaging the material and **2)** a live session to implement exercises and Q&A sessions between students and the instructors. Students may watch the pre-recorded videos on their own time (as long as it is before the upcoming live class), but are expected to join and actively participate in the live class as much as possible (attendance is taken during these live classes as part of meeting Kathmandu University's class attendance requirement of 80%).

The second type of class is the online ALI conversation class where the student has the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with a native speaker. In addition to having conversations about various topics of the student's choice, coordinated handouts are provided in order to encourage the student to practice structures recently introduced and discussed in class. In these handouts, example sentences illustrate the various usages and combinations of this complex language and facilitate the growth of vocabulary.

Please be aware that your instructors are available daily for "office hours", meaning that upon request we can have private discussions on topics related to our course material with individual students. We do ask that you schedule these sessions with us ahead of time, ideally a day or so in advance, and work with us to find a suitable meeting time given our varying time-zones.

Regular quizzes for each lesson and writing assignments provide feedback on the level of understanding and knowledge regarding grammar and vocabulary to teachers as well as the student. Please bear in mind that spelling is an important aspect of your quizzes and exams and is to be taken seriously; even though we are learning a spoken language, literacy is vital and poor spelling is often an indicator of poor reading, writing, and pronunciation. Thus, we strongly encourage our students to appreciate written Tibetan as much as they do spoken.

A vast amount of vocabulary and knowledge has been acquired prior to this term, therefore the students are expected and encouraged to become more independent in terms of collecting, compiling and

continually reviewing what they have learned so far. The teachers will consider the previous materials acquired, and will build upon that.

It is the overall aim of this course to introduce and thoroughly explain all remaining grammatical structures so that students will have a solid basis upon which they can further develop their language skills. Given the developing nature of this online course, we appreciate any constructive feedback from our students on how to better implement the material, and also ask for your open mindedness as we work with each of you to adapt to this situation and improve our course to better suit your needs.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT:

Students must maintain a minimum of 80% class attendance in order to pass this course. Grades will be assigned according to the following categories:

Class Participation and Homework Assignments	10% of final grade
Quizzes:	20% of final grade
Midterm Exam:	20% of final grade
Final Exam:	50% of final grade

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

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	≥ 93.3%
A-	≥ 90.0%
B+	≥ 86.6%
B	≥ 83.3%
B-	≥ 80.0%
C+	≥ 76.6%
C	≥ 73.3%
C-	≥ 70.0%
D	≥ 60-69%
F	<60 %