TSTD 201, 301, 401: Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy 
and Hermeneutics I, III, V 
Fall 2020

Instructor: TBA
Translator: Inka Wolf
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Class Time: S1: Monday – Friday, 11:00 – 12:30 pm (Nepal time)

Review Class Time: S1: Wednesday 1:45 – 2:45 pm, S2: Friday 5:45 – 6:45 (Nepal time)

Required Reading:

Ju Mipham Rinpoche. *mkhas pa’i tshul la ‘jug pa’i sgo zhes bya’i bstan bcos bzhus so.*

Course Description:

This semester we will study *Gateway to Knowledge (mkhas pa’i tshul la ‘jug pa’i sgo)* by Ju Mipham Rinpoche (1846-1912). The text outlines the foundational structures of Buddhist thought in the tradition of Abhidharma, according to the perspective of both the Foundational Vehicle and the Greater Vehicle. In the fall semester we will begin to explore the “ten topics which cause learnedness,” focusing on how cognition in its various aspects can be categorized and explained. Khenpo will give a word-by-word oral commentary on the text, while also allowing time for questions and answers with students. Students are thus expected to prepare for class daily by reading the text covered in the previous day’s class.

In addition to the Khenpo’s class, there will also be a review class led by the translator or a teaching assistant, which meets one hour each week in each time zone. These review classes are a required part of the course itself, and are intended to clarify and support the material covered in the main section of the class. The review class provides a forum for students to ask questions about topics covered in the Khenpo’s class that they would prefer to discuss with other students or have clarified by the discussion leader. In the review class we will also discuss the material covered in the Khenpo’s class from different perspectives, as well as hold discussions on related topics that will expand and round our understanding of what we are learning from the Khenpo. Attendance at the review class is a required part of the course.
Course requirements and assessment:

Grades will be assigned according to the following categories:

- **Class Participation:** 5% of final grade
- **Quizzes:** 20% of final grade
- **Short Papers:** 10% of final grade
- **Midterm Exam:** 15% of final grade
- **Final Assessment:** 50% of final grade

Guidelines and dates for assignments will be distributed and explained during review/discussion class. Dates and details for quizzes and exams will also be announced in review/discussion class.

Kathmandu University Attendance Requirement

If a student has less than 80% attendance in any given course, he or she will be marked as having failed the course and will be required to retake the entire course at a later date (see “Attendance Waiver Appeal” in the Student Guidebook for limited exceptions to this requirement).

Academic Integrity

Students must be familiar with what academic integrity (or dishonesty) and plagiarism mean and behave accordingly. (Refer to the Student Guidebook for further details.) In case of uncertainty about what academic integrity means, please consult with the instructor.

Grading

A numerical mark will be calculated for each course requirement. At the end of the semester, these will be averaged and the final grades will be assessed according to the following scale: 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%).